PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

Please read the instructions before completing this form. For additional forms or assistance in completing this form, contact your agency's Paperwork Clearance Officer. Send two copies of this form, the collection instrument to be reviewed, the supporting statement, and any additional documentation to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503.

1. Agency/Subagency originating request
DOC/NOAA/NMFS/AKR

2. OMB control number b. [ ] None
a. 0648 - 0330

3. Type of information collection (*check one*)
a. [ ] New Collection
b. [✔] Revision of a currently approved collection
c. [ ] Extension of a currently approved collection
d. [ ] Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired
e. [ ] Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired
f. [ ] Existing collection in use without an OMB control number
For b-f, note Item A2 of Supporting Statement instructions

4. Type of review requested (*check one*)
a. [✔] Regular submission
b. [ ] Emergency - Approval requested by / /
c. [ ] Delegated

5. Small entities
Will this information collection have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities? [ ] Yes [✔] No

6. Requested expiration date
a. [✔] Three years from approval date b. [ ] Other Specify: /

7. Title
Scale & Catch Weighing Requirements

8. Agency form number(s) (*if applicable*)

9. Keywords
'fishing' fishing vessels'

10. Abstract

The procedures in question are designed for Western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) catcher/processors, American Fisheries Act (AFA) catcher/processors, and AFA motherships. This existing information collection would be revised to incorporate catch-weighing requirements for AFA inshore processors (shoreside processors and stationary floating processors). NMFS must be able to ensure that the total weight, species composition, and catch location for each delivery are reported accurately. This is accomplished through a catch-monitoring system that: allows for independent verification of catch weight, species composition and haul location data; ensures that all catch is weighed accurately; and provides a record of the weight of each delivery that may be audited by NMFS. Requirements include approval of scale types for use, inspection requests, scale tests, an inshore processor catch monitoring and control plan, and printed output from scales.

11. Affected public (*Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"*)
a. x Individuals or households d. ___ Farms
b. P Business or other for-profit e. ___ Federal Government
c. ___ Not-for-profit institutions f. ___ State, Local or Tribal Government

12. Obligation to respond (*check one*)
a. [ ] Voluntary
b. [ ] Required to obtain or retain benefits
c. [✔] Mandatory

13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden

a. Number of respondents	39
b. Total annual responses	11,178
1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically	5 %
c. Total annual hours requested	8,058
d. Current OMB inventory	3,508
e. Difference	4,550
f. Explanation of difference	
1. Program change	2,047
2. Adjustment	2,503

14. Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden *(in thousands of dollars)*

a. Total annualized capital/startup costs	0
b. Total annual costs (O&M)	10
c. Total annualized cost requested	10
d. Current OMB inventory	6
e. Difference	4
f. Explanation of difference	
1. Program change	2
2. Adjustment	2

15. Purpose of information collection (*Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "X"*)
a. ___ Application for benefits e. ___ Program planning or management
b. p Program evaluation f. ___ Research
c. ___ General purpose statistics g. x Regulatory or compliance
d. ___ Audit

16. Frequency of recordkeeping or reporting *(check all that apply)*
a. [ ] Recordkeeping b. [ ] Third party disclosure
c. [ ] Reporting
1. [✔] On occasion 2. [ ] Weekly 3. [ ] Monthly
4. [ ] Quarterly 5. [ ] Semi-annually 6. [✔] Annually
7. [ ] Biennially 8. [ ] Other (describe)

17. Statistical methods
Does this information collection employ statistical methods
[ ] Yes [✔] No

18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding the content of this submission)
Name: Patsy A. Bearden
Phone: 907-586-7008

19. Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

On behalf of this Federal Agency, I certify that the collection of information encompassed by this request complies with 5 CFR 1320.9

NOTE: The text of 5 CFR 1320.9, and the related provisions of 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3), appear at the end of the instructions. *The certification is to be made with reference to those regulatory provisions as set forth in the instructions.*

The following is a summary of the topics, regarding the proposed collection of information, that the certification covers:

(a) It is necessary for the proper performance of agency functions;

(b) It avoids unnecessary duplication;

(c) It reduces burden on small entities;

(d) It used plain, coherent, and unambiguous terminology that is understandable to respondents;

(e) Its implementation will be consistent and compatible with current reporting and recordkeeping practices;

(f) It indicates the retention period for recordkeeping requirements;

(g) It informs respondents of the information called for under 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3):

(i) Why the information is being collected;

(ii) Use of information;

(iii) Burden estimate;

(iv) Nature of response (voluntary, required for a benefit, mandatory);

(v) Nature and extent of confidentiality; and

(vi) Need to display currently valid OMB control number;

(h) It was developed by an office that has planned and allocated resources for the efficient and effective management and use of the information to be collected (see note in Item 19 of instructions);

(i) It uses effective and efficient statistical survey methodology; and

(j) It makes appropriate use of information technology.

If you are unable to certify compliance with any of the provisions, identify the item below and explain the reason in Item 18 of the Supporting Statement.

Signature of Senior Official or designee	Date

Agency Certification (signature of Assistant Administrator, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Line Office Chief Information Officer, head of MB staff for L.O.s, or of the Director of a Program or StaffOffice)	
Signature signed by Rebecca Lent	Date 9/16/2003
Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer	
Signature signed by Richard Roberts	Date 09/16/2003

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
SCALE & CATCH WEIGHING REQUIREMENTS
OMB NO. 0648-0330

INTRODUCTION

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) manages the groundfish fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (BSAI) and Gulf of Alaska (GOA) under the FMPs for groundfish in the respective areas. With Federal oversight, the State of Alaska (State) manages the commercial king crab and Tanner crab fisheries in the BSAI and the commercial scallop fishery off Alaska under the FMPs for those fisheries. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) prepared, and NMFS approved, the FMPs under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq*. Regulations implementing the FMPs appear at 50 CFR part 679. General regulations governing U.S. fisheries also appear at 50 CFR part 600.

NMFS manages the commercial groundfish harvest off Alaska using an annual total allowable catch for each species based on "round" weight, or the weight of the fish prior to processing. However, much of the fish harvested off Alaska is harvested by vessels that process the catch at-sea and do not land whole fish. NMFS estimates the total weight of fish harvested by those trawl gear processing vessels by requiring the vessel to weigh all or part of their catch on a motion-compensated scale. Trawl catcher/processors and motherships under the American Fisheries Act (AFA) and motherships under the Western Alaska Community Development Quota Program (CDQ) are required to weigh all catch at-sea. Non-trawl catcher/processors that harvest CDQ are not required to weigh all catch, but are required to weigh samples of catch.

The name of this collection of information is changed from "At-sea Scales Certification Program" to read "Scale and Catch-weighing Requirements," because requirements for inshore processors are added to previously all-offshore (at-sea) requirements. This collection describes equipment and operational requirements for groundfish participants, consisting of: scales used to weigh catch at sea; scales approved by the State of Alaska; observer sampling station; vessel monitoring system (VMS); and catch monitoring and control plan.

A. JUSTIFICATION

The following 18 responses provide justification for the revisions to the collection-of-information requirements.

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary.

This catch-weighing and observer sampling station procedure for Western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) catcher/processors was extended to include AFA catcher/processors

and AFA motherships for catch weighing, observer sampling stations and observer coverage requirements. In addition, this information collection is revised to incorporate catch weighing requirements for AFA inshore processors (shoreside processors and stationary floating processors).

NMFS must be able to ensure that the total weight, species composition, and catch location for each delivery are reported accurately. This is accomplished through a catch-monitoring system that:

Allows for independent verification of catch weight, species composition and haul location data;

Ensures that all catch is weighed accurately; and

Provides a record of the weight of each delivery that may be audited by NMFS.

2. Explain how, by whom, how frequently, and for what purpose the information will be used. If the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support information that will be disseminated to the public, then explain how the collection complies with applicable NOAA Information Quality Guidelines.

Although the catch management goals established by NMFS for the AFA and CDQ fisheries are similar for the inshore and offshore sectors, there are important differences between these sectors. First, inshore processors vary more in size, facilities and layout than do catcher/processors or motherships. Second, the State of Alaska (State) is responsible for approving scales used for trade by inshore processors and has developed an effective program for their inspection and approval.

The catch weighing and monitoring system developed by NMFS for catcher/processors and motherships is based on the vessel meeting a series of design criteria. Because of the wide variations in factory layout for inshore processors, NMFS requires a performance-based catch monitoring system for inshore processors. NMFS has developed the following catch monitoring regulations for each sector.

a. Records of daily scale tests.

To verify that each scale used to weigh total catch meets the Maximum Permissible Error (MPE), the operator or manager must ensure the daily test is performed on each scale or scale system in an accurate and timely manner when use of the scale is required. Each scale used to weigh total catch must be tested daily. The observer must be notified at least 15 minutes before the time that the test will be conducted, and the test must be conducted while the observer is present. Record on the daily scale test form the vessel name; month, day, and year of test; and time test started to the nearest minute. The daily scale test consists of:

(1) Collect approximately 400 kg of fish in baskets and weigh it on the platform scale. Record the weight of each basket of fish (basket plus fish) in Section I of the form.

(2) Record the total weight of all baskets plus fish in the first box in Section II.

(3) Record the weight of the baskets in the second box. Subtract the weight of the baskets from the total weight of fish plus baskets to determine the weight of the fish only; record this weight in the third box in Section II. This is the platform scale weight of the fish (A).

(4) Record the weight displayed on the flow scale before and after the test fish are weighed.

(5) Weigh the fish from the baskets on the flow scale. Record the weight in the fourth box of Section II(B).

(6) Calculate error of flow scale by subtracting the platform scale weight (A) from the flow scale weight (B). Record the error (C) in the fifth box of Section II.

(7) Calculate percent error by dividing the error (C) by the known weight of the fish (A) and multiplying by 100. Record this information in the last box of Section II. The scale is weighing within 3 percent error if the result is between -3.0% and +3.0%.

(8) Record Beaufort Scale sea conditions at time of test.

(9) Have form signed by vessel operator and observer.

When tested, the total catch weighing scale and the observer sampling station scale must agree within 3 percent. If the scale fails the daily test, it may be re-tested at any time. However, it may not be used to weigh fish until it passes the daily test.

The daily test information may be recorded on either a “pdf” format file or an “excel” spreadsheet, available from the Alaska Region home page. Although not submitted to NMFS, the forms must be available for inspection on board or onsite until the end of the fishing year during which the tests were conducted and retained by the owner for three years after the test occurred.

Information from the form is used by NMFS observers, enforcement staff, and scale program staff to ensure regulatory compliance and to monitor the accuracy of the scales.

Records of daily scale tests, Respondent	
Number of respondents at-sea 29 + shoreside 8	37
Frequency of response (2 to 200)	135
Total annual responses (37 x 135)	**4,995**
Time per response (45 min/60 min)	0.75 hr
Total burden hours (4,995 x 0.75)	**3,746 hr**
Personnel cost	$25/hr
Total personnel cost	**$93,650**
Miscellaneous supplies (binders, printer paper)	$35
Total miscellaneous costs (37 x $35)	**$1,295**

Records of daily scale tests, Federal Government	
Total burden hours	**0 hr**
Personnel cost	$25/hr
Total personnel cost	**$0**

b. Printed output of scale weights (rev)

The printed output of scale weights is used by NMFS staff, observers and NOAA Enforcement personnel to maintain accurate records of catch and to ensure compliance with quotas. The printout also forms the basis of an audit trail for each haul that can be used to resolve inconsistencies in catch reports submitted by the observer and the vessel or processor. These printouts are not submitted to NMFS, but they must be available for inspection on board the vessel or onsite during the fishing year and retained by the vessel or plant owner for three years after the test occurred.

Scales used to weigh catch at sea.
Each scale used to weigh catch must be equipped with a printer, and a printout or printouts showing the total weight of each delivery must be generated after each delivery has been weighed. Reports must be printed at least once every 24 hours when use of the scale is required. Reports must be printed before any information stored in the scale computer memory is replaced. The printouts of the scale weight of each haul, set, or delivery must be made available upon request by the authorized scale inspector at each scale inspection and must also be printed at any time upon request of the observer, the scale inspector, NMFS staff, or an authorized officer at the time printouts are generated and thereafter upon request for the duration of the fishing year.

For vessels required to provide scales only when CDQ fishing, this is between 2 and 60 printouts per year. For catcher/processors and motherships authorized to harvest pollock under the American Fisheries act, this is approximately 200 printouts per year. The required information on the printout is programed into the scale software and printing is nearly automatic.

Printed output from the at-sea scale

Vessel name
Federal fisheries permit number
Haul or set number
Total weight of the haul or set
Total cumulative weight of all fish or other material weighed on the scale

Scales approved by the State of Alaska.(new)

Each scale identified in the CMCP must produce a complete and accurate printed record of the weight in each delivery, or portion of a delivery, weighed on that scale. If approved by NMFS as part of the CMCP, scales that are not designed for automatic bulk weighing may be exempted from part or all of the printed record requirements.

Printed output from the State of Alaska scale (new)

Processor name
Weight of each load in the weighing cycle
Total weight of fish in each delivery, or portion of the delivery that was weighed on that scale
Total cumulative weight of all fish or other material weighed on the scale since the last annual inspection
Date and time the information is printed
Name and ADF&G number of the vessel making the delivery (This information may be written on the scale printout in pen by the scale operator at the time of delivery.)

Printed output, Respondent	
Number of respondents At-sea 29 + shoreside 8	37
Frequency of response (2 to 200)	135
Total annual responses (37 x 135)	**4,995**
Time per response (45 min/60 min)	0.75 hr
Total burden hours (4,995 x 0.75)	**3,746 hr**
Personnel cost	$25
Total personnel cost	**$93,650**
Miscellaneous cost (binders, paper) (37 x $35)	$1,295
Printer cost ($420/3 yr = $140 x 37)	$5,180
Total miscellaneous cost	**$6,475**

Printed output, Federal Government	
Total burden hours	**0 hr**
Personnel cost	$25/hr
Total personnel cost	**$0**

c. Offshore Processors Catch-weighing & Monitoring System [rev]

i. Scale type evaluation (Belt scale, automatic hopper scale, platform scale) (rev)

Before an offshore processor may use a scale onboard, the model of scale must be included on NMFS' list of scales eligible to be approved for weighing catch at sea. A scale is included on

the list when NMFS receives the specified information for each scale. Type evaluation and testing must be conducted by a laboratory accredited by the government of the country in which the tests are conducted. Before NMFS can approve a model of scale for use, the manufacturer must submit the scale to a certified laboratory for evaluation and testing to ensure that the scale meets international scale standards. Scales must meet the performance and technical requirements specified in appendix A to 50 CFR part 679.

NMFS has approved 34 scale models made by three manufacturers. At this time, Marel hf and Skanvaegt International A/S produce scales that have been approved by NMFS for weighing total catch. Marel hf, Skanvaegt International A/S and Pols hf manufacture scales that have been approved for use in observer sampling stations. Depending on the type of scale and how similar the scale is to models that have already been approved, the number of hours required to document the scales characteristics is variable.

A separate application must be completed by the manufacturer or manufacturer's representative for each scale model that is submitted for approval. Evaluation information identifies and describes the scale, sets forth contact information regarding the manufacturer, and sets forth the results of required type evaluations and testing. This information is collected once for each scale type or model. It is used by NMFS scale-evaluation staff to determine if a model of scale meets the requirements for type approval. This form has three versions, one for each major class of scale that NMFS can approve. The questions on the forms are identical in concept and differ only in the precise information requested when the information is specific to one scale type.

Scale type evaluation: Platform and hanging scales (rev)

Block I. Information about the scale tested.

This block supplies basic background and contact information so that NMFS can maintain accurate contact records.

- Name and mailing address of scale manufacturer
- Name, mailing address (if different from manufacturer), telephone and FAX number of manufacturer's representative
- Model and serial number of scale submitted for evaluation.

Block II. Information about all scales.

Frequently scale manufacturers produce the same basic scale with different sizes, capacities or model numbers. This block allows the manufacturer to describe a "family" of similar scales so that all can be approved at one time. It also sets out the basic meteorological characteristics of the scales.

Provide information about the scale submitted for evaluation at #1. Identify all other models of scales of the same type of scale that will be covered by laboratory evaluation.

- Model designation
- Maximum capacity
- Value of scale divisions
- Number of scale divisions
- Minimum load
- Accuracy class

Block III. Information about the certifying laboratory.

This block gives NMFS information on the independent laboratory that evaluated the scale. The information allows us to contact the lab directly if we need clarification.

- Name of laboratory
- Mailing address, telephone and FAX of laboratory

Name and Address of Government Agency accrediting laboratory

Block IV. Certification of compliance with NMFS at-sea scale requirements.

This block is to certify that the manufacturer's representative believes the scale or scale component is in compliance with regulations at 50 CFR 679 as indicated in the checklist and test report forms.

Signature of representative

Date

Printed Name of representative

Block V. List of Attachments.

This block is a checklist of attachments intended to help the manufacturer's representative include the correct documentation that NMFS needs to approve the scale.

Written description and diagrams of the scale indicating primary features of the scale, how the scale operates, and how the scale compensates for vessel motion.

Describe the difference between the scale submitted for laboratory evaluation and all other scales for which the laboratory evaluation will apply.

Laboratory test results

List of adjustments included in the audit trail

Other (please list)

Block VI. General Requirements Checklist

This helps the manufacturer's representative to review the requirements for approval and to note any possible problems.

Scale type evaluation: Belt scale (rev)

Block I. Information about the scale tested.

This block supplies basic background and contact information so that NMFS can maintain accurate contact records.

Name and mailing address address of scale manufacturer

Name, mailing address (if different from manufacturer), telephone and FAX number of manufacturer's representative

Model and serial number of scale submitted for evaluation.

Block II. Information about all scales.

Frequently scale manufacturers produce the same basic scale with different sizes, capacities or model numbers. This block allows the manufacturer to describe a "family" of similar scales so that all can be approved at one time. It also sets out the basic meteorological characteristics of the scales.

Provide information about the scale submitted for evaluation at #1. Identify all other models of scales of the same type of scale that will be covered by laboratory evaluation.

Model designation

Maximum capacity

Value of scale divisions

Maximum flow rate, minimum flow rate, minimum totalized load

Belt speed

Weigh length

Maximum capacity

Block III. Information about the certifying laboratory.

This block gives NMFS information on the independent laboratory that evaluated the scale. The information allows us to contact the lab directly if we need clarification.

Name of laboratory

Mailing address, telephone and FAX numbers of laboratory

Name and Address of Government Agency accrediting laboratory

Block IV. Certification of compliance with NMFS at-sea scale requirements.

This block is to certify that the manufacturer's representative believes the scale or scale component is in compliance with regulations at 50 CFR 679 as indicated in the checklist and test report forms.

Signature of manufacturer's representative

Date

Printed Name of manufacturer representative

Block V. List of Attachments.

This block is a checklist of attachments intended to help the manufacturer's representative include the correct documentation that NMFS needs to approve the scale.

Written description and diagrams of the scale indicating primary features of the scale, how the scale operates, and how the scale compensates for vessel motion.

Describe the difference between the scale submitted for laboratory evaluation and all other scales for which the laboratory evaluation will apply.

Laboratory test results

List of adjustments included in the audit trail

Other (please list)

Block VI. General Requirements Checklist – Belt scale.

This helps the manufacturer's representative to review the requirements for approval and to note any possible problems.

Scale type evaluation: Automatic hopper scales (rev)

Block I. Information about the scale tested.

This block supplies basic background and contact information so that NMFS can maintain accurate contact records.

Name and mailing address of scale manufacturer

Name, mailing address (if different from manufacturer), telephone and FAX number of manufacturer's representative

Model and serial number of scale submitted for evaluation.

Block II. Information about all scales.

Frequently scale manufacturers produce the same basic scale with different sizes, capacities or model numbers. This block allows the manufacturer to describe a "family" of similar scales so that all can be approved at one time. It also sets out the basic meteorological characteristics of the scales.

Provide information about the scale submitted for evaluation at #1. Identify all other models of scales of the same type of scale that will be covered by laboratory evaluation.

Model designation

Maximum capacity

Value of scale divisions

Number of scale divisions

Minimum weighment

Minimum totalized load

Block III. Information about the certifying laboratory.

This block gives NMFS information on the independent laboratory that evaluated the scale. The information allows us to contact the lab directly if we need clarification.

Name of laboratory

Mailing address, telephone and FAX numbers of laboratory

Name and Address of Government Agency accrediting laboratory

Block IV. Certification of compliance with NMFS at-sea scale requirements.

This block is to certify that the manufacturer's representative believes the scale or scale component is in compliance with regulations at 50 CFR 679 as indicated in the checklist and test report forms.

Signature of manufacturer's representative

Date

Printed Name of manufacturer representative

Block V. List of Attachments.

This block is a checklist of attachments intended to help the manufacturer's representative include the correct documentation that NMFS needs to approve the scale.

Written description and diagrams of the scale indicating primary features of the scale, how the scale operates, and how the scale compensates for vessel motion.

Describe the difference between the scale submitted for laboratory evaluation and all other scales for which the laboratory evaluation will apply.

Laboratory test results

List of adjustments included in the audit trail

Other (please list)

Block VI. General Requirements Checklist – Automatic hopper scale.

This helps the manufacturer's representative to review the requirements for approval and to note any possible problems.

Scale Type Evaluation, Respondent	
Number of respondents	1
Frequency of response	1
Responses per respondent	1
Total annual responses (1/3)	**0.3**
Total burden hours (20-190 hr)	**63 hr**
Time burden, Platform scale, unique model	80 hr
Time burden Platform scale, similar to a model that has already been approved	20 hr
Time burden, Belt scale, unique model	190 hr
Time burden, Belt scale, similar to a model that has already been approved	30 hr
Time burden, Automatic hopper scale, unique model	0 hr
Time burden, Automatic hopper scale, similar to a model that has already been approved	0 hr
Cost for Scale evaluation by an independent laboratory	$10,000
Miscellaneous supplies (binders, printer paper)	$15
Miscellaneous costs (photocopying, FAX)	$1
Laboratory Testing costs (scale model $10,000 with market life of 5 yr = annual cost of $2,000/yr)	$2,000
Total miscellaneous costs	**$2,016**
Personnel cost	$25/hr
Total personnel cost,	**$1,575**

Scale Type Evaluation, Federal Government	
Total burden hours review submissions (80 hr) maintain list of approved scales (20 hr)	**100 hr**
Personnel cost	$25/hr
Total Personnel cost	**$2,500**

ii. Inspection Request, At-sea Scales (rev)

Once a scale is installed on a vessel and approved by NMFS for use to weigh catch at sea, the scale must be inspected and approved annually by a NMFS-approved scale inspector to determine if the scale meets all of the applicable performance and technical requirements. The scale inspection is required before the vessel participates in any fishery requiring the weighing of

catch at sea. A scale inspection is a visual assessment and test of a scale after it is installed on the vessel, while the vessel is tied up at a dock and not under power at sea.

Each scale must be reinspected within 12 months of the date of the most recent inspection. The owner or operator annually must submit an inspection request to NMFS of each vessel that is required to have approved scales. It is used by NMFS-authorized scale inspectors to schedule and conduct a scale inspection on belt scales, automatic hopper scales, and platform scales.

Inspection Request, At-sea Scales

GENERAL (rev)

- Company name (new)
- Vessel name
- Mailing address
- Vessel location
- Contact person on board
- Telephone and FAX numbers for contact person
- Requested inspection date
- Today's date
- Telephone number on vessel where inspector may be contacted during inspection

SCALES TO BE INSPECTED (rev)

- Manufacturer name and model (rev)
- Indicate YES or NO whether repair company will be onsite at time of inspection
- Repair company name
- Contact person name and telephone number (new)

Inspection Request, At-sea Scales, Respondent	
Number of respondents	29
Responses per respondent	1
Total annual responses	**29**
Time per response	0.1 hr
Total burden hours (29 x 0.1 = 2.9)	**3 hr**
Personnel cost	$25/hr
Total personnel cost (3 x $25)	**$75**
Miscellaneous (photocopy, FAX)	$5
Total miscellaneous cost (29 x $5)	**$145**

Inspection Request, At-sea Scales, Federal Government	
Total burden hours	**4 hr/yr**
Personnel cost	$25/hr
Total personnel cost	**$100**

iii. At-sea scale approval report/sticker

After the vessel owner installs a NMFS-approved scale and has requested a scale inspection, he or she must make the vessel and scale available for inspection by the NMFS-authorized scale inspector. The owner must also:

Provide a copy of the scale manual supplied by the scale manufacturer to the inspector at the beginning of the inspection.

Transport test weights, test material, and equipment required to perform the test to and from the inspector's vehicle and the location on the vessel where the scale is installed.

Apply test weights to the scale or convey test materials across the scale, if requested by the scale inspector.

Assist the scale inspector in performing the scale inspection and testing.

A scale is approved for use when the NMFS scale inspector completes and signs a scale inspection report and NMFS scale sticker verifying that the scale meets all of the requirements. The inspector provides the original inspection report to the owner and a copy to NMFS. The report and sticker each verify that a scale is approved for use.

The vessel owner or operator must ensure that the scale approval report is available for inspection by authorized personnel (NMFS staff or observers, United States Coast Guard personnel). In addition the owner or operator must ensure that a "NMFS approved scale" sticker is on each approved scale and that the scale sticker remains legible.

At-sea Scale approval report/sticker, Respondent	
Number of respondents	29
Responses per respondent	1
Total annual responses	**29**
Time per response	0.1 hr
Total burden hours (29 x 0.1 = 2.9)	**3 hr**
Personnel cost	$25
Total personnel cost	**$75**

At-sea Scale approval report/sticker, Federal Government	
Total burden hours	**4 hr**
replace lost stickers (2 hr/yr)	
maintain test records (2 hr/yr)	
Personnel cost	$25/hr
Total personnel cost	**$100**

iv. Application to inspect scales on behalf of NMFS

No form exists for this requirement. The applicant provides information to assist NMFS staff to evaluate scale inspectors from other agencies that may wish to inspect scales on behalf of NMFS, and to determine whether they meet the qualifications of § 679.28(b)(2)(iii)(B).

Application to inspect scales on behalf of NMFS

Applicant name
Applicant telephone number
Applicant FAX number (if available)
Employer
Employer address
Employer telephone
Signature and date.
The signature block is below a statement reading as follows:
"I am employed by a U.S., State, or local weights and measures agency and have been trained to conduct inspections of NMFS-approved scales".

Application to inspect scales on behalf of NMFS, Respondent	
Number of respondents	1
Responses per respondent	1
Total annual responses	**0.3**
Time per response	0.1 hr
Total burden hours	**0.03 hr**
Personnel cost	$25
Total personnel cost	**$1**
Miscellaneous (binders, paper)	$15
Photocopying, FAX copies	$1
Total miscellaneous	**$16**

Application to inspect scales on behalf of NMFS, Federal Government	
Total burden hours	**1 hr**
Personnel cost	$25/hr
Total personnel cost	**$25**

v. Observer sampling station inspection request form.

Observer sampling stations are required for processors participating in AFA fisheries. Observer sampling stations provide a location where observers can work safely and effectively. These sampling stations must meet specifications for size, location, and content. Each observer sampling station must be inspected and approved by NMFS annually. An observer sampling station inspection request form provides the basic information needed to schedule and conduct an inspection.

Upon approval of the scale, an Observer Platform Scale Inspection Report is completed by the inspector and issued to the operator. This report must be maintained on board the vessel or at the plant when use of the observer sampling station is required.

Observer sampling station inspection request form. (Rev)

Attach a scaled diagram of observer sampling station
Company name (new)
Vessel name
Federal fisheries permit number
Mailing address
Vessel location, including street address, pier, and city
Name, telephone number, and FAX number for contact person on vessel
Requested inspection date
Today's date
Applicant's signature
Indicate YES or NO whether received and passed a scale inspection
If NO, indicate YES or NO whether requesting observer sample station and scale inspections at the same time

Request for Observer station inspection, Respondent	
Number of respondents	29
Responses per respondent	1
Total annual responses	**29**
Time per response	2 hr
Total burden hours	**58 hr**
Personnel cost	$25/hr
Total personnel cost	**$1,450**
Miscellaneous (photocopy, FAX)	$9
Total miscellaneous cost (29 x $9)	**$261**

Request for Observer station inspection, Federal Government	**6 hr**
Total burden hours (send out and collect forms)	$25/hr
Personnel cost	**$150**
Total personnel cost	

vi. Certified bins for volumetric estimates of catch weight (new)

The Regional Administrator declared that the requirement for use of certified bins in the fisheries of the EEZ off the coast of Alaska was replaced with the requirement to use at-sea scales. No fisher currently uses certified bins and the use of certified bins in the future is not anticipated.

Certified bins for volumetric estimates of catch weight No fisher currently uses certified bins and the use of certified bins in the future is not anticipated.	0 hr

d. Inshore Processors Catch Monitoring and Control [new]

Each inshore processor annually must submit a Catch Monitoring and Control Plan (CMCP) to NMFS for approval. NMFS will inspect each inshore processor to ensure that:

the plant layout conforms to the elements of the plan;
the CMCP has been implemented; and
the performance standards continue to be met.

If changes are made in plant operations or layout during the approval year, the inshore processor must submit a revised CMCP for approval to NMFS.

NMFS anticipates that plant management will wish to work closely with NMFS staff before making any modifications to the plant layout or purchasing equipment. NMFS staff will review draft CMCPs and will pre-inspect inshore processors as requested by plant management.

i. Inspection Request, Inshore CMCP [new]

The time and place of a CMCP inspection may be arranged by submitting a written request for a CMCP inspection. An inspection will be scheduled within 10 working days after NMFS receives a complete application for an inspection. The costs for submitting the CMCP and CMCP Addendum are included in the miscellaneous costs for the inspection requests.

Inspection Request, Inshore CMCP

Name and signature of the person submitting the application
Date of the application;
Address, telephone number, FAX number, and e-mail address (if available) of the person submitting the application;
A proposed CMCP (see item 2.b.ii below)

Inspection Request, Inshore CMCP, Respondent	
Number of respondents	8
Frequency of response	1
Total annual responses	**8**
Time per response (5min/60 min)	0.08 hr
Total burden hours (0.08 x 8 = 0.64)	**1 hr**
Personnel cost	$25
Total personnel cost	**$25**
Miscellaneous (photocopying)	$5
Miscellaneous (mailing)	$8
Total miscellaneous ($13 x 8)	**$40**

Request for CMCP Inspection, Federal Government	
Total burden hours	**4 hr/yr**
Personnel cost	$25/hr
Total personnel cost	**$100**

ii. Proposed CMCP [new]

The CMCP is a plan submitted annually by the owner or manager of an inshore processor detailing how the processor will meet each of the performance standards at 50 CFR 679.28(g).

Proposed CMCP

Catch Sorting and weighing

All groundfish delivered to the plant must be sorted and weighed by species. The CMCP must detail
- the amount and location of space for sorting catch,
- the number of staff devoted to catch sorting
- the maximum rate that catch will flow through the sorting area.

Scales used for weighing groundfish.

The CMCP must identify by serial number each scale used to weigh groundfish and describe the rational for its use

Scale testing plan

For each scale identified in the CMCP a testing plan must be developed that:
- Describes the procedure the plant will use to test the scale
- Lists the test weights and equipment required to test the scale
- Lists where the test weights and equipment are stored
- Lists the plant personnel responsible for conducting the scale testing
- Each scale must display a valid State sticker indicating that the scale was inspected and approved within the previous 12 months. The State is the primary authority responsible for approving and testing inshore processor scales. Under State regulations, inshore processors are required to weigh all catch that is being bought or sold on State-approved scales.

If approved by NMFS as part of the CMCP, scales that are not designed for automatic bulk weighing may be exempted from part or all of the printed record requirements.

Request for exemption must include:
- Identification of any scale that cannot produce a complete printed record
- Explain how the processor will use the scale, and
- Explain how the plant intends to produce a complete record of the total weight of each delivery.
- Printouts must be retained and made available to NMFS-authorized personnel including observers

Delivery point

Each CMCP must identify a single delivery point, which is the first location where fish removed from a delivering catcher vessel can be sorted or diverted to more than one location.
- If the catch is pumped from the hold of a catcher vessel or a codend, the delivery point normally is the location where the pump first discharges the catch.
- If catch is removed from a vessel by brailing,, the delivery point normally is the bin or belt where the brailer discharges the catch.

Observation area.
Each CMCP must designate an observation area, which is the location where an individual may monitor the flow of fish during a delivery. The observation area must meet the following standards:

Must be freely accessible to NMFS staff or NMFS-authorized personnel at any time a valid CMCP is required.
Must be located near the observer work station.
Must have an unobstructed view or otherwise be able to monitor the entire flow of fish between the delivery point and a location where all sorting has taken place and each species has been weighed

Observer work station

Must identify and include an observer work station for the exclusive use of NMFS-certified observers.
Unless otherwise approved by NMFS, the work station must meet the following criteria;
Must be located in an area protected from the weather where the observer has access to unsorted catch.
Must provide a platform scale of at least 50 kg capacity
Must include a workspace at least 4.5 sq m, a table, and a secure and lockable cabinet or locker of at least 0.5 cu m.

Communication with observer
Each CMCP must describe what communication equipment such as radios, pagers or cellular telephones, is used to facilitate communications within the plant and provide the NMFS-certified observer with the same communications equipment used by plant staff.

Plant liaison
Each CMCP must designate a plant liaison responsible for

Orienting new observers to the plant
Assisting in the resolution of observer concerns
Informing NMFS if changes must be made to the CMCP

Scale drawing of inshore processor plant
Each CMCP must be accompanied by a scale drawing of the plant showing

The delivery point
The observation area
The observer work station
The location of each scale used to weigh catch
Each location where catch is sorted

CMCP, **Respondent**	
Number of respondents	8
Responses per respondent	1
Total annual responses	**8**
Time per response	40 hr
Total burden hours	**320 hr**
Personnel cost per hr	$25
Total personnel cost ($25 x 320)	**$8,000**

CMCP, **Federal Government**	
Total burden hours	**40**
Personnel cost	$25/hr
Total personnel cost	**$1,000**

iii. CMCP Addendum [new]

An owner or manager must notify NMFS in writing if changes are made in plant operations or layout that do not conform to the CMCP. An owner and manager may change an approved CMCP by submitting a CMCP addendum to NMFS. NMFS will approve the modified CMCP if it continues to meet the performance standards.

CMCP Addendum

Name and signature of the person submitting the addendum;

Address, telephone number, FAX number and email address (if available) of the person submitting the addendum;

A complete description of the proposed CMCP change.

CMCP Addendum, Respondent	
Number of respondents	4
Responses per respondent	1
Total annual responses	**4**
Time per response	8 hr
Total burden hours	**32 hr**
Personnel cost per hr	$25
Total personnel cost ($25 x 32)	**$800**

CMCP Addendum, Federal Government	
Total burden hours	4
Personnel cost	$25/hr
Total personnel cost	**$100**

iv. Notification of observer of offloading schedule for delivery of BSAI pollock.

The plant manager or plant liaison must notify the observer of the offloading schedule for each delivery of BSAI pollock by an AFA catcher vessel at least 1 hour prior to offloading. An observer must monitor each delivery of BSAI pollock from an AFA catcher vessel and be on site the entire time the delivery is being weighed or sorted.

Observer notification, **Respondent**	
Number of respondents	8
Responses per respondent (2 to 200)	135
Total annual responses	**1,080**
Time per response (5 min/60 min)	0.08 hr
Total burden hours	**86 hr**
Personnel cost per hr	$25
Total personnel cost ($25 x 320)	**$2,150**

Observer notification, Federal Government	
Total burden hours	**0**
Personnel cost	$25/hr
Total personnel cost	**$0**

It is anticipated that the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support publicly-disseminated information. NOAA Fisheries will retain control over the information and safeguard it from improper access, modification, and destruction, consistent with NOAA standards for confidentiality, privacy, and electronic information. See response #10 of this Supporting Statement for more information on confidentiality and privacy. The information collection is designed to yield data that meet all applicable information quality guidelines. Prior to dissemination, the information will be subjected to quality control measures and a pre-dissemination review pursuant to Section 515 of Public Law 106-554.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological techniques or other forms of information technology.

The at-sea scale inspection request form can be completed online at **http://www.fakr.noaa.gov./cdq/scales.html** or submitted by FAX.

The printed output from the scale requirements are programed into each scale and complying is either automatic when the scale operator changes memories, or requires only invoking the "print" command on the scale display.

The daily scale test form is available as a Microsoft Excel template that can be installed on the vessel's computer if the operator wishes to do so. The daily scale test form also is available on our Web page.

The observer sampling station request form is available on our Web page.

The scale type evaluation package is not available electronically. Because of the complexity of this process, we prefer that an applicant directly contact the program manager so that he can work with them personally on completing the package.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

None of the information collected as part of this information collection duplicates other collections. This information collection is part of a specialized and technical program that is not like any other.

5. If the collection of information involves small businesses or other small entities, describe the methods used to minimize burden.

This collection of information does not impose a significant impact on small entities.

6. Describe the consequences to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently.

Without the scale type approval information collections, NMFS would be unable to properly evaluate new models or types of scales as they are developed. This could prevent vessel owners from obtaining a better product. It would also prevent scale manufacturers from having the most recent versions of their scales approved for use.

Without the inspection request forms, NMFS would be unable to coordinate and schedule scale inspections expeditiously.

Without the daily scale test results and the printed output from the scale, NMFS would be unable to effectively audit catch in fisheries requiring use of scales. Without the daily scale testing and printed output frequency, we would not be as confident of the accuracy of the scales. Given that scales are used only in fisheries where there are expectations of highly accurate catch monitoring, this would not be acceptable.

7. Explain any special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with the OMB guidelines.

There are no special circumstances associated with this information collection.

8. Provide a copy of the PRA Federal Register notice that solicited public comments on the information collection prior to this submission. Summarize the public comments received in response to that notice and describe the actions taken by the agency in response to those comments. Describe the efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

NMFS published a notice in the Federal Register (68 FR 13279, March 19, 2003) soliciting public comments on the information collection. A copy is attached. No comments were received.

9. Explain any decisions to provide payments or gifts to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

There are no plans to provide any payment or gift to respondents.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for this assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

The information collected under Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1801, *et seq*.) is confidential under section 402(b) . The information is also confidential under NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, which sets forth procedures to protect confidentiality of fishery statistics. These procedures have been implemented under the NMFS Operations Manual entitled, "Data Security Handbook for the Northwest-Alaska Region, National Marine Fisheries Service."

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

This information collection does not involve information of a sensitive nature.

12. Provide an estimate in hours of the burden of the collection of information.

Total estimated responses are 11,178. Total estimated time burden is 8,058 hours. Total estimated personnel cost is $201,451 . Personnel labor costs are estimated to the average wage equivalent to a GS-7 employee in Alaska, including COLA, at $25 per hour.

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to the respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the collection (excluding the value of the burden hours in #12 above).

Total estimated miscellaneous costs are $10,248. This reflects a $1,720 increase in costs associated with the program changes for observer notification, the printed scale output for shoreside processors, the records of daily scale tests by shoreside processors, and the inspection requests for inshore processors; and a $2,388 increase from adjustments in previous estimates.

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government.

Total estimated time burden is 163 hr. Total personnel cost is $4,075. No estimated miscellaneous costs.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 13 or 14 of the OMB 83-I.

The title of the information collection was changed from “At-sea Scale Certification Program” to read “Scale and Catch Weighing Requirements. This change incorporates a broader view to include inshore processor activities.

The structure of this collection is reorganized into two main topics: offshore processors (catcher/processors and motherships) and inshore processors (shoreside processors and stationary floating processors). A new requirement is added for inshore processors to complete a Catch Monitoring and Control Plan (CMCP), which incorporates some of the at-sea scale requirements. In addition, requirements for shoreside records of daily scale tests and printed scale output are added.

A mistake in calculation of burden for "printed output" is corrected from 0.1 to 0.75, which results in an increase of burden.

The revisions in this collection result in an increase of 2,047 hours due to program changes and an increase of 2,503 hours due to adjustments; and an increase in miscellaneous costs of $1,720 due to program changes and an increase in miscellaneous costs of $2,388 due to adjustments.

16. For collections whose results will be published, outline the plans for tabulation and publication.

We have no plans to tabulate the results of this information collection

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons why display would be inappropriate.

The expiration date is shown on all forms and the standard certification is either attached to each form or a part of it.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19 of the OMB 83-I.

Because of size constraints, the expiration date is not shown on the scale approval sticker, however, the expiration date is shown on the scale approval form that is given to the vessel owner with the sticker.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

This collection does not employ statistical methods.

Record of Daily Scale Tests

Vessel Name:_____ Date:_____

Time test started:_____

I. Weigh Fish on Observer Platform Scale

Basket #	Wt Fish + Basket (kg)	Basket #	Wt Fish + Basket (kg)	Basket #	Wt Fish + Basket (kg)	Basket #	Wt Fish + Basket (kg)
1		8		15		21	
2		9		16		22	
3		10		17		23	
4		11		18		24	
5		12		19		25	
6		13		20		26	
7		14		Total weight all fish+baskets			

II. Calculate Percent Error of Flow Scale

Scale Indicator: Begin Test: . . . . . kg

End Test: . . . . . kg

Total weight fish and baskets (kg)	- Weight of Baskets	= Platform scale weight of fish	Weight of Fish on Flow Scale (kg)	Error (B) - (A)	% Error = (C)÷(A) x 100
		(A)	**(B)**	**(C)**	

III. Sea Conditions (Beaufort Scale) at Time of Scale Test (Circle One):

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Signature of vessel operator
I observed this test and to the best of my knowledge it was conducted in accordance with 50 CFR 679.28 (b)(3) Signature of observer

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Collect approximately 400 kg of fish in baskets and weigh the baskets of fish on the platform scale. Record the weight of each basket of fish (basket plus fish) in Section I.
2. Record the total weight of all baskets plus fish in the first box in Section II.
3. Record the weight of the baskets in the second box. Subtract the weight of the baskets from the total weight of fish plus baskets to determine the weight of the fish only, record this weight in the third box in Section II. This is the platform scale weight of the fish (A).
4. Record the weight displayed on the flow scale before and after the test fish are weighed. .
5. Weigh the fish from the baskets on the flow scale. Record the weight in the fourth box of Section II (B).
6. Calculate error of flow scale by subtracting the platform scale weight (A) from the flow scale weight (B). Record the error (C) in the fifth box of Section II.
7. Calculate percent error by dividing the error (C) by the known weight of the fish (A) and multiplying by 100. Record this information in the last box of Section II. The scale is weighing within 3 percent error if the result is between -3.0% and +3.0%.
8. Record Beaufort Scale sea conditions at time of test.
9. Have form signed by vessel operator and observer.

Additional Information

- A daily scale test must be conducted once every 24 hours when the scale is being used to weigh catch at-sea.
- If the scale fails the daily test, it may be re-tested at any time. However, it may not be used to weigh fish until it passes the daily test.
- This form must be maintained on board the vessel until the end of the fishing year in which it was completed. It must be retained by the vessel owner for three years, and must be made available to NMFS personnel, observers or authorized officers when requested.
- Questions or comments concerning this form or the daily test can be directed to:

Alan Kinsolving
Scales Program Coordinator
National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone: (907)-586-7237
Fax: (907)-586-7465
Email alan.kinsolving@noaa.gov

PUBLIC REPORTING BURDEN STATEMENT

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 45 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to Sue Salveson, Assistant Regional Administrator, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802 (Attn: Lori Durall).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Before completing this form please note the following: 1) NMFS cannot conduct or sponsor this information request, and you are not required to respond to this information request, unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number; 2) this information is being used to manage the At-Sea Scales Program; 3) Federal law and regulations require and authorize NMFS to manage commercial fishing effort; 4) Submission of this information is required for scales approved by NMFS to weigh catch at sea; 5) Responses to this information request are not confidential.

OMB No. 0648-0330; Expires 2/29/04

INSPECTION REQUEST **At-Sea Scales**	National Marine Fisheries Service P.O. Box 21668 Juneau, AK 99802-1668 (907) 586-7228 FAX (907) 586-7465

GENERAL	
Company name:	Vessel name:
Mailing address:	Exact location of vessel:
Contact person on board:	Telephone Number for contact person:
Requested Inspection date:	FAX Number for contact person:
Today's date:	Please give a phone number on the vessel where the inspector may be contacted during the inspection:

SCALES TO BE INSPECTED		
	Manufacturer	Model
1		
2		
Will the repair company be on site at time of inspection?		Yes ☐ No ☐
Company name:		Contact person and phone:

At the time of scale inspection please make sure that:

1) the scale is installed in a rigid and level manner,
2) the display and printer are connected and operational,
3) belts leading to the scale are connected and operational (not applicable to platform and hanging scales),
4) test weights and test weight certification documents are available for inspection (platform scales only),
5) a crew member will be available to help the inspector transport test materials and conduct the testing.

For more information contact: Alan Kinsolving, At-sea scales program coordinator,
Phone: (907)-586-7237
Email: alan.kinsolving@noaa.gov

OMB No. 0648-0330; Expires 2/29/04

PUBLIC REPORTING BURDEN STATEMENT
Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 6 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to Sue Salveson, Assistant Regional Administrator, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802 (Attn: Lori Durall).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
Before completing this form please note the following: 1) NMFS cannot conduct or sponsor this information request, and you are not required to respond to this information request, unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number; 2) this information is being used to manage the At-Sea Scales Program; 3) Federal law and regulations require and authorize NMFS to manage commercial fishing effort; 4) Submission of this information is required for scales approved by NMFS to weigh catch at sea; 5) Responses to this information request are not confidential.

OMB No 0648-0330 Expires 02/29/04

OBSERVER SAMPLING STATION INSPECTION REQUEST FORM	**Fax or mail completed forms and diagrams to:** Rob Swanson North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program 301 Research Court Kodiak, AK 99615 907-481-1770 Fax 907-481-1771 E-mail rob.swanson@noaa.gov
Company Name:	Vessel Name:
Federal Fishery Permit Number:	Location of vessel including street address, pier, and city:
Mailing Address:	
Contact Person On Vessel:	Telephone Number For Contact Person:
Requested Inspection Date:	Fax Number For Contact Person:
Today's Date:	Applicant's Signature:

Have you received and passed a scale inspection? Yes No
If No would you like observer sample station and scale inspections to be held at the same time? Yes No

If Yes, Please contact Alan Kinsolving at (907) 586-7237 for scheduling.

Sample station inspections will be scheduled within ten (10) working days of receiving a request. Requests for inspections in Dutch Harbor will be scheduled within ten (10) days, but may be delayed several days due to weather or logistics. **Please include your diagrams drawn to scale with your application**.

PUBLIC REPORTING BURDEN STATEMENT

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to Sue Salveson, Assistant Regional Administrator, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802 (Attn: Lori Gravel).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Before completing this form please note the following: 1) NMFS cannot conduct or sponsor this information request, and you are not required to respond to this information request, unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number; 2) this information is being used to manage the At-Sea Scales Program; 3) Federal law and regulations require and authorize NMFS to manage commercial fishing effort; 4) Submission of this information is required for scales approved by NMFS to weigh catch at sea; 5) Responses to this information request are not confidential.

Scale Type Evaluation **Belt scale**	National Marine Fisheries Service P.O. Box 21668 Juneau, AK 99802-1668 (907) 586-7228 FAX (907) 586-7465

I. INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCALE TESTED	
Name of Scale Manufacturer:	Name of Manufacturer's Representative:
Mailing Address of Scale Manufacturer:	Mailing Address of Representative, if different:
Model of Scale Submitted for Evaluation:	Telephone Number of Representative:
Serial Number of Scale Submitted for Evaluation:	FAX Number of Representative:

II. INFORMATION ABOUT ALL SCALES

Provide information about the scale submitted for evaluation at #1. Identify all other models of scales of the same type of scale that will be covered by laboratory evaluation.

#	Model Designation	Value of Scale Divisions	Max. Flow Rate	Min. Flow Rate	Min. Totalized Load	Belt Speed	Weigh Length	Max. Capacity
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								

III. INFORMATION ABOUT THE CERTIFYING LABORATORY	
Name of Laboratory:	Name and Address of Government Agency Accrediting Laboratory:
Mailing Address of Laboratory:	
Telephone: FAX:	

IV. CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH NMFS AT-SEA SCALE REQUIREMENTS	
I certify that I have examined the scale or scale component described above and found it to be in compliance with the performance and technical requirements in 50 CFR 679 (§679.28(b)(2) and Appendix A) as indicated in the attached checklist and test report forms.	
Signature of Manufacturer's Representative:	Date
Printed Name of Manufacturer Representative:	

V. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

A. Written description and diagrams of the scale indicating primary features of the scale, how the scale operates, and how the scale compensates for vessel motion.

B. Describe the difference between the scale submitted for laboratory evaluation and all other scales for which the laboratory evaluation will apply.

C. Laboratory test results

D. List of adjustments included in the audit trail

E. Other (please list)

VI. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST--BELT SCALE				
Appendix A reference	Title	+	-	Remarks
2.3.1.1	Indicators and Printers: General			
2.3.1.2	Values Defined			
2.3.1.3	Units			
2.3.1.4	Value of the Scale Division			
2.3.1.5	Range of Indication			
2.3.1.6	Resettable and non-resettable values			
2.3.1.7	Rate of Flow Indicator			
2.3.1.8	Printed Information			
2.3.1.9	Permanence of Markings			
2.3.1.10	Power Loss			
2.3.1.11	Adjustable Components			
2.3.1.12	Audit Trail			Written description must be attached
2.3.2.1	Speed Measurement			
2.3.2.2	Conveyor Belt			
2.3.2.3	Overload Protection			
2.3.2.4	Speed Control			
2.3.2.5	Adjustable Components			
2.3.2.6	Motion Compensation			Written description must be attached
2.3.4	Marking			
2.3.4.1	Presentation			

PUBLIC REPORTING BURDEN STATEMENT

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 190 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to Sue Salveson, Assistant Regional Administrator, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802 (Attn: Lori Durall).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Before completing this form please note the following: 1) NMFS cannot conduct or sponsor this information request, and you are not required to respond to this information request, unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number; 2) this information is being used to manage the At-Sea Scales Program; 3) Federal law and regulations require and authorize NMFS to manage commercial fishing effort; 4) Submission of this information is required for scales approved by NMFS to weigh catch at sea; 5) Responses to this information request are not confidential.

Instructions

Scale Type Evaluation
BELT SCALE

Block I. Information about the scale tested.

This block supplies basic background and contact information so that NMFS can maintain accurate contact records.

Name and mailing address of scale manufacturer
Name, mailing address (if different from manufacturer), telephone and FAX number of manufacturer's representative
Model and serial number of scale submitted for evaluation.

Block II. Information about all scales.

More than one model of scale may be evaluated at the same time. However, the models may differ from the model submitted for evaluation only in the elements of the scale that perform motion compensation, the size or capacity of the scale, and the software used by the scale. If other elements differ, a separate application must be completed.

Model Designation: Enter the model name or number that will be visible to the scale inspector and will allow him to clearly determine that the scale he is inspecting is on the list of approved scales.

Value of Scale Divisions: Enter the smallest division displayed by the scale.

Maximum Flow Rate: Report in metric tons per hour or kilograms per hour.

Minimum Flow Rate: Report in metric tons per hour or kilograms per hour. This must not be greater than 35 percent of the maximum flow rate.

Minimum Totalized Load: Report in kilograms per hour.

Belt Speed: Report in meters per hour. This is the speed at which the belt travels when the scale is at its maximum flow rate.

Weigh Length: Enter either the length of the weighing plate or the distance between the two imaginary lines at the half distance between the axes of the end weighing rollers and the axes of the nearest carrying rollers. When there is only one weighing roller, the weigh length is equal to half the distance between the axes of the nearest carrying rollers on either side of the weighing roller.

Maximum capacity: Report in kilograms.

Block III. Information about the certifying laboratory

Information about the laboratory which performed the laboratory evaluation and type testing. The laboratory must be accredited by the government of the country in which tests were conducted.

Name of laboratory
Mailing address, telephone and FAX of laboratory
Name and address of government agency accrediting the laboratory

Block IV. Certification of compliance

This block is to certify that the manufacturer's representative believes the scale or scale component is in compliance with regulations at 50 CFR 679 as indicated in the checklist and test report forms.

Signature and printed name of representative. Enter name and signature of person responsible for evaluation of the scale
Date of signature

Block V. List of attachments

This block is a checklist of attachments intended to help the manufacturer's representative include the correct documentation that NMFS needs to approve the scale. The information provided must be sufficient to allow NMFS to judge whether the scale is appropriate for its intended use on a vessel at-sea. Requirements for motion compensation are specifically described in Appendix A, section 2.3.2.6.

Each scale listed in Block II must be described.
Written description and diagrams of the scale indicating primary features of the scale, how the scale operates, and how the scale compensates for vessel motion.

Describe the difference between the scale submitted for laboratory evaluation and all other scales for which the laboratory evaluation will apply.

Laboratory test results: Verification of test results that a scale meets the laboratory evaluation and testing requirements in appendix A to 50 CFR part 679 and each of the influence quantity and disturbance tests as specified in the annex to appendix A that:

Led to an International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) certificate of conformance or

Demonstrates that the scale meets all test requirements in Appendix A or the annex to Appendix A of 50 CFR 679.28. An National Type Evaluation Program (NTEP) certificate will be accepted only for the specific influence factor tests which were conducted to receive the NTEP certificate additional information must be submitted to verify compliance with the laboratory tests that are not performed under the NTEP.

List of adjustments. Enter a list of types of scale adjustments that will be recorded on the audit trail, including the name of the adjustment as it will appear on the audit trail, and a written description of the adjustment. An audit trail in the form of an event logger must be provided to document changes made using adjustable components.

Other.
This should include any supporting information that will assist NMFS to determine if the scale meets the performance and technical standards.

Block VI. General Requirements checklist

This checklist is provided for your own convenience and does not need to be submitted to NMFS. Each item on this list is required before a scale may be approved by NMFS. For each item on the checklist, there is a reference to a paragraph of Appendix A to 50 CFR 679.28 (attached). If the scale being evaluated meets that criterion, place a mark in the plus column. If a scale does not meet the criterion, or you are not certain whether it meets the criterion, place a mark in the minus column.

Scale Type Evaluation **Automatic Hopper Scales**	National Marine Fisheries Service P.O. Box 21668 Juneau, AK 99802-1668 (907) 586-7228 FAX (907) 586-7465

I. INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCALE TESTED	
Name of Scale Manufacturer:	Name of Manufacturer's Representative:
Mailing Address of Scale Manufacturer:	Mailing Address of Representative, if different:
Model of Scale Submitted for Evaluation:	Telephone Number of Representative:
Serial Number of Scale Submitted for Evaluation:	FAX Number of Representative:

II. INFORMATION ABOUT ALL SCALES

Provide information about the scale submitted for evaluation at #1. Identify all other models of scales of the same type of scale that will be covered by laboratory evaluation.

#	Model Designation	Maximum Capacity	Value of Scale Divisions	Number of Scale Divisions	Minimum Weighment	Minimum Totalized Load
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						

III. INFORMATION ABOUT THE CERTIFYING LABORATORY	
Name of Laboratory:	Name and Address of Government Agency Accrediting Laboratory:
Mailing Address of Laboratory:	
Telephone: Fax:	

IV. CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH NMFS AT-SEA SCALE REQUIREMENTS	
I certify that I have examined the scale or scale component described above and found it to be in compliance with the performance and technical requirements in 50 CFR 679 (§679.28(b)(2) and Appendix A) as indicated in the attached checklist and test report forms.	
Signature of Manufacturer's Representative:	Date
Printed Name of Manufacturer Representative:	

V. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS
A. Written description and diagrams of the scale indicating primary features of the scale, how the scale operates, and how the scale compensates for vessel motion.
B. Describe the difference between the scale submitted for laboratory evaluation and all other scales for which the laboratory evaluation will apply.
C. Laboratory test results
D. List of adjustments included in the audit trail
D. Other (please list)

VI. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST--AUTOMATIC HOPPER SCALE				
Appendix A reference	Title	+	-	Remarks
3.3.1.1	General: Indicators and Printers			
3.3.1.2	Values Defined			
3.3.1.3	Units			
3.3.1.4	Value of the Scale Division			
3.3.1.5	Weighing Sequence			
3.3.1.6	Printing Sequence			
3.3.1.7	Printed Information			
3.3.1.8	Permanence of Markings			
3.3.1.9	Range of Indication			
3.3.1.10	Non-Resettable Values			
3.1.1.11	Power Loss			
3.3.1.12	Adjustable Components			
3.3.1.13	Audit Trail			
3.3.1.14.1	Manual Zero Load Adjustment			
3.3.1.14.2	Semi-automatic Zero Load Adjustment			
3.3.1.15	Damping Means			
3.3.1.16	Adjustments to Scale Weights			
3.3.2	Interlocks and Gate Control			
3.3.3	Overfill Sensor			
3.3.4.1	Overload Protection			
3.3.4.2	Adjustable Components			
3.3.4.3	Motion Compensation			
3.3.6	Marking			
3.3.6.1	Presentation			

PUBLIC REPORTING BURDEN STATEMENT

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 190 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to Sue Salveson, Assistant Regional Administrator, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802 (Attn: Lori Durall).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Before completing this form please note the following: 1) NMFS cannot conduct or sponsor this information request, and you are not required to respond to this information request, unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number; 2) this information is being used to manage the At-Sea Scales Program; 3) Federal law and regulations require and authorize NMFS to manage commercial fishing effort; 4) Submission of this information is required for scales approved by NMFS to weigh catch at sea; 5) Responses to this information request are not confidential.

Instructions

Scale Type Evaluation
AUTOMATIC HOPPER SCALES

Block I. Information about the scale tested .

This block supplies basic background and contact information so that NMFS can maintain accurate contact records.

Name and mailing address of scale manufacturer
Name, mailing address (if different from manufacturer), telephone and FAX number of manufacturer's representative
Model and serial number of scale submitted for evaluation.

Block II. Information about all scales.

More than one model of scale may be evaluated at the same time. However, the models may differ from the model submitted for evaluation only in the elements of the scale that perform motion compensation, the size or capacity of the scale, and the software used by the scale. If other elements differ, a separate application must be completed.

Model Designation: Enter the model name or number that will be visible to the scale inspector and will allow him to clearly determine that the scale he is inspecting is on the list of approved scales.

Maximum capacity: Report in kilograms.

Value of scale divisions: Enter the smallest division displayed by the scale.

Number of scale divisions: Is the maximum capacity divided by the value of scale divisions.

Minimum Weighment: This must not be less than 20 percent of the maximum capacity or less than 100 scale intervals (except the final weighment of a lot).

Minimum Totalized Load: This may not be less than 4 weighments, and should be reported in kilograms.

Block III. Information about the certifying laboratory

Information about the laboratory which performed the laboratory evaluation and type testing. The laboratory must be accredited by the government of the country in which testing was conducted.

Name of laboratory
Mailing address, telephone and FAX of laboratory
Name and Address of Government Agency accrediting the laboratory

Block IV. Certification of compliance

This block is to certify that the manufacturer's representative believes the scale or scale component is in compliance with regulations at 50 CFR 679 as indicated in the checklist and test report forms.

Signature and printed name of representative. Enter name and signature of person responsible for evaluation of the scale
Date of signature

Block V. List of attachments

This block is a checklist of attachments intended to help the manufacturer's representative include the correct documentation that NMFS needs to approve the scale. The information provided must be sufficient to allow NMFS to judge whether the scale is appropriate for its intended use on a vessel at-sea. Requirements for motion compensation are specifically described in Appendix A, section 2.3.2.6.

Each scale listed in Block II must be described.
Written description and diagrams of the scale indicating primary features of the scale, how the scale operates, and how the scale compensates for vessel motion.

Describe the difference between the scale submitted for laboratory evaluation and all other scales for which the laboratory evaluation will apply.

Laboratory test results: Verification of test results that a scale meets the laboratory evaluation and testing requirements in appendix A to 50 CFR part 679 and each of the influence quantity and disturbance tests as specified in the annex to appendix A that:

Led to an International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) certificate of conformance or

Demonstrates that the scale meets all test requirements in Appendix A or the annex to Appendix A of 50 CFR 679.28. An National Type Evaluation Program (NTEP) certificate will be accepted only for the specific influence factor tests which were conducted to receive the NTEP certificate additional information must be submitted to verify compliance with the laboratory tests that are not performed under the NTEP.

List of adjustments. Enter a list of types of scale adjustments that will be recorded on the audit trail, including the name of the adjustment as it will appear on the audit trail, and a written description of the adjustment. An audit trail in the form of an event logger must be provided to document changes made using adjustable components.

Other.
This should include any supporting information that will assist NMFS in determining if the scale meets the performance and technical standards.

Block VI. General Requirements checklist

This checklist is provided for your own convenience and does not need to be submitted to NMFS. Each item on this list is required before a scale may be approved by NMFS. For each item on the checklist, there is a reference to a paragraph of Appendix A to 50 CFR 679.28 (attached). If the scale being evaluated meets that criterion, place a mark in the plus column. If a scale does not meet the criterion, or you are not certain whether it meets the criterion, place a mark in the minus column.

Scale Type Evaluation **Platform and Hanging Scales**	National Marine Fisheries Service P.O. Box 21668 Juneau, AK 99802-1668 (907) 586-7228 FAX (907) 586-7465

I. INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCALE TESTED	
Name of Scale Manufacturer:	Name of Manufacturer's Representative:
Mailing Address of Scale Manufacturer:	Mailing Address of Representative, if different:
Model of Scale Submitted for Evaluation:	Telephone Number of Representative:
Serial Number of Scale Submitted for Evaluation:	FAX Number of Representative:

II. INFORMATION ABOUT ALL SCALES

Provide information about the scale submitted for evaluation at #1. Identify all other models of scales of the same type of scale that will be covered by laboratory evaluation.

#	Model Designation	Maximum Capacity	Value of Scale Divisions	Number of Scale Divisions	Minimum Load	Accuracy Class
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						

III. INFORMATION ABOUT THE CERTIFYING LABORATORY	
Name of Laboratory:	Name and Address of Government Agency Accrediting Laboratory:
Mailing Address of Laboratory:	
Telephone: FAX:	

IV. CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH NMFS AT-SEA SCALE REQUIREMENTS	
I certify that I have examined the scale or scale component described above and found it to be in compliance with the performance and technical requirements in 50 CFR 679 (§679.28(b)(2) and Appendix A) as indicated in the attached checklist and test report forms.	
Signature of Manufacturer's Representative:	Date
Printed Name of Manufacturer Representative:	

V. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS
A. Written description and diagrams of the scale indicating primary features of the scale, how the scale operates, and how the scale compensates for vessel motion.
B. Describe the difference between the scale submitted for laboratory evaluation and all other scales for which the laboratory evaluation will apply.
C. Laboratory test results
D. List of adjustments included in the audit trail
D. Other (please list)

VI. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST--PLATFORM OR HANGING SCALE				
Appendix A reference	Title	+	-	Remarks
4.3.1.1	General: Indicators and Printers			
4.3.1.2	Values Defined			
4.3.1.3	Units			
4.3.1.4	Value of the Scale Division			
4.3.1.5	Printed Information			
4.3.1.6	Permanence of Markings			
4.3.1.7	Power Loss			
4.3.1.8(a)	Security Means			
4.3.1.8(b)	Audit Trail			
4.3.1.9	Zero-load Adjustment			
4.3.1.9.1	Manual			
4.3.1.9.2	Semi-automatic			
4.3.1.10	Damping Means			
4.3.2.1	Overload Protection			
4.3.2.2	Adjustable Components			
4.3.2.3	Motion Compensation			
4.3.4	Marking			
4.3.4.1	Presentation			

PUBLIC REPORTING BURDEN STATEMENT

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 80 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to Sue Salveson, Assistant Regional Administrator, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802 (Attn: Lori Durall).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Before completing this form please note the following: 1) NMFS cannot conduct or sponsor this information request, and you are not required to respond to this information request, unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number; 2) this information is being used to manage the At-Sea Scales Program; 3) Federal law and regulations require and authorize NMFS to manage commercial fishing effort; 4) Submission of this information is required for scales approved by NMFS to weigh catch at sea; 5) Responses to this information request are not confidential.

Instructions

Scale Type Evaluation
PLATFORM & HANGING SCALES

Block I. Information about the scale tested .

This block supplies basic background and contact information so that NMFS can maintain accurate contact records.

Name and mailing address of scale manufacturer
Name, mailing address (if different from manufacturer), telephone and FAX number of manufacturer's representative
Model and serial number of scale submitted for evaluation.

Block II. Information about all scales.

More than one model of scale may be evaluated at the same time. However, the models may differ from the model submitted for evaluation only in the elements of the scale that perform motion compensation, the size or capacity of the scale, and the software used by the scale. If other elements differ, a separate application must be completed.

Model Designation: Enter the model name or number that will be visible to the scale inspector and will allow him to clearly determine that the scale he is inspecting is on the list of approved scales.

Maximum capacity: Report in kilograms.

Value of scale divisions: Enter the smallest division displayed by the scale.

Number of scale divisions: Is the maximum capacity divided by the value of scale divisions.

Minimum Load: As designated by the manufacturer, enter 20d for a Class III scale or enter 10d for a Class IIII scale.

Accuracy Class: As designated by the manufacturer, enter accuracy class III and class IIII.

Block III. Information about the certifying laboratory

Information about the laboratory which performed the laboratory evaluation and type testing. The laboratory must be accredited by the government of the country in which testing was conducted.

Name of laboratory
Mailing address, telephone and FAX of laboratory
Name and address of government agency accrediting the laboratory

Block IV. Certification of compliance

This block is to certify that the manufacturer's representative believes the scale or scale component is in compliance with regulations at 50 CFR 679 as indicated in the checklist and test report forms.

Signature and printed name of representative. Enter name and signature of person responsible for evaluation of the scale
Date of signature

Block V. List of attachments

This block is a checklist of attachments intended to help the manufacturer's representative include the correct documentation that NMFS needs to approve the scale. The information provided must be sufficient to allow NMFS to judge whether the scale is appropriate for its intended use on a vessel at-sea. Requirements for motion compensation are specifically described in Appendix A, section 2.3.2.6.

Each scale listed in Block II must be described.
Written description and diagrams of the scale indicating primary features of the scale, how the scale operates, and how the scale compensates for vessel motion.

Describe the difference between the scale submitted for laboratory evaluation and all other scales for which the laboratory evaluation will apply.

Laboratory test results. Verification of test results that a scale meets the laboratory evaluation and testing requirements in appendix A to 50 CFR part 679 and each of the influence quantity and disturbance tests as specified in the annex to appendix A that:

Led to an International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) certificate of conformance or

Demonstrates that the scale meets all test requirements in Appendix A or the annex to Appendix A of 50 CFR 679.28. An National Type Evaluation Program (NTEP) certificate will be accepted only for the specific influence factor tests which were conducted to receive the NTEP certificate additional information must be submitted to verify compliance with the laboratory tests that are not performed under the NTEP.

List of adjustments. Enter a list of types of scale adjustments that will be recorded on the audit trail, including the name of the adjustment as it will appear on the audit trail, and a written description of the adjustment. An audit trail in the form of an event logger must be provided to document changes made using adjustable components.

Other.
This should include any supporting information that will assist NMFS in determining if the scale meets the performance and technical standards.

Block VI. General Requirements checklist

This checklist is provided for your own convenience and does not need to be submitted to NMFS. Each item on this list is required before a scale may be approved by NMFS. For each item on the checklist, there is a reference to a paragraph of Appendix A to 50 CFR 679.28 (attached). If the scale being evaluated meets that criterion, place a mark in the plus column. If a scale does not meet the criterion, or you are not certain whether it meets the criterion, place a mark in the minus column.

§ 679.28 ***Equipment and operational requirements***.

(a) Applicability.

This section contains the requirements for scales, observer sampling stations, bins for volumetric estimates, and vessel monitoring system hardware. This section does not require any vessel or processor to provide this equipment. Such requirements appear elsewhere in this part.

(b) Scales used to weigh catch at sea.

In order to be approved by NMFS a scale used to weigh catch at sea must meet the type evaluation requirements set forth in paragraph (b)(1) of this section and the initial inspection and annual reinspection requirements set forth in paragraph (b)(2) of this section. Once a scale is installed on a vessel and approved by NMFS for use to weigh catch at sea, it must be reinspected annually and must be tested daily and meet the maximum permissible error (MPE) requirements described in paragraph (b)(3) of this section.

(1) List of scales eligible for approval.

The model of scale must be included on the Regional Administrator's list of scales eligible to be approved for weighing catch at sea before an inspector will schedule or conduct a scale inspection under paragraph (b)(2) of this section. A scale will be included on the list when the Regional Administrator receives the information specified in paragraphs (b)(1)(i) through (iv) of this section. This information identifies and describes the scale, sets forth contact information regarding the manufacturer, and sets forth the results of required type evaluations and testing. Type evaluation and testing must be conducted by a laboratory accredited by the government of the country in which the tests are conducted.

(i) Information about the scale.

(A) Name of scale manufacturer.

(B) Name of manufacturer's representative.

(C) Mailing address of scale manufacturer and manufacturer's representative.

(D) Telephone and fax number of manufacturer's representative.

(E) Model and serial number of the scale tested.

(F) A written description of the scale and diagrams explaining how the scale operates and how it compensates for motion.

(G) A list of the model numbers of all scales for which type evaluation results are applicable, identifying the differences between the model evaluated in the laboratory and other models listed. The scales may differ only in the elements of the scale that perform motion compensation, the size or capacity of the scale, and the software used by the scale.

(H) A list of types of scale adjustments that will be recorded on the audit trail, including the name of the adjustment as it will appear on the audit trail, and a written description of the adjustment.

(ii) Information about the laboratory.

(A) Name of laboratory.

(B) Mailing address of laboratory.

(C) Telephone and fax number of laboratory's representative.

(D) Name and address of government agency accrediting the laboratory.

(E) Name and signature of person responsible for evaluation of the scale and the date of signature.

(iii) Checklist. A completed checklist indicating that all applicable technical and performance standards in appendix A to this part and the laboratory tests in the annex to appendix A to this part have been met.

(iv) Verification of test results. Verification that a scale meets the laboratory evaluation and testing requirements in appendix A of this part and each of the influence quantity and disturbance tests as specified in the annex to appendix A to this part:

(A) Test results and data on forms supplied by NMFS;

(B) National Type Evaluation Program (NTEP) Certificates of Conformance, test results and data for a component of a scale or for the entire device. NTEP Certificates of Conformance, test results, and data may be submitted only in lieu of the specific influence factor tests conducted to obtain the NTEP Certificates of Conformance. Additional information must be submitted to verify compliance with the laboratory tests that are not performed under the NTEP; and/or

(C) International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) Certificates of Conformance, test results and data.

(2) Inspection of at-sea scales.

(i) What is an inspection? An inspection is a visual assessment and test of a scale after it is installed on the vessel and while the vessel is tied up at a dock and not under power at sea to determine if the scale meets all of the applicable performance and technical requirements in paragraph (b)(2) of this section and in appendix A to this part. A scale will be approved by the inspector if it meets all of the applicable performance and technical requirements in paragraph (b)(2) of this section and appendix A to this part.

(ii) How often must a scale be inspected? Each scale must be inspected and approved before the vessel may participate in any fishery requiring the weighing of catch at sea with an approved scale. Each scale must be reinspected within 12 months of the date of the most recent inspection.

(iii) Who may perform scale inspections? Scales must be inspected by either a NMFS staff scale inspector or a scale inspector employed by a weights and measures agency designated by NMFS to perform scale inspections on its behalf. A list of authorized scale inspectors is available from the Regional Administrator upon request. Scale inspections are paid for by NMFS.

(A) Inspectors from an agency designated by NMFS. Inspectors employed by a weights and measures agency designated by NMFS to perform scale inspections on behalf of NMFS. Scale inspections by such inspectors are paid for by NMFS.

(B) Inspectors from other agencies. Inspectors employed by a U.S., state, or local weights and measures agency other than the weights and measures agency designated by NMFS and meeting the following requirements:

(1) The inspector successfully completes training conducted by a scale inspector from the weights and measures agency designated by NMFS to perform scale inspections on behalf of NMFS. The training consists of observing a scale inspection conducted by a scale inspector designated by NMFS and conducting an inspection under the supervision of a scale inspector designated by NMFS. The inspector must obtain this training for each type of scale inspected.

(2) The inspector notifies NMFS in writing that he/she meets the requirements of this paragraph (b)(2)(iii)(B) prior to conducting any inspections.

(3) Inspectors from agencies other than the weights and measures agency designated by NMFS to perform scale inspections on behalf of NMFS must notify the Regional Administrator of the date, time, and location of the scale inspection at least 3 working days before the inspection is conducted so that NMFS staff may have the opportunity to observe the inspection.

(iv) How does a vessel owner arrange for a scale inspection? The time and place of the inspection may be arranged by contacting the authorized scale inspectors. Vessel owners must request a scale inspection at least 10 working days in advance of the requested inspection by contacting an authorized scale inspector at the address indicated on the list of authorized inspectors.

(v) Where will scale inspections be conducted? Scale inspections by inspectors paid by NMFS will be conducted on vessels tied up at docks in Dutch Harbor, Alaska, and in the Puget Sound area of Washington State.

(vi) Responsibilities of the vessel owner during a scale inspection. After the vessel owner has installed a model of scale that is on the Regional Administrator's list of scales eligible to be approved for weighing catch at sea, the vessel owner must:

(A) Make the vessel and scale available for inspection by a scale inspector authorized by the Regional Administrator.

(B) Provide a copy of the scale manual supplied by the scale manufacturer to the inspector at the beginning of the inspection.

(C) Transport test weights, test material, and equipment required to perform the test to and from the inspector's vehicle and the location on the vessel where the scale is installed.

(D) Apply test weights to the scale or convey test materials across the scale, if requested by the scale inspector.

(E) Assist the scale inspector in performing the scale inspection and testing.

(vii) Scale inspection report.

(A) A scale is approved for use when the scale inspector completes and signs a scale inspection report verifying that the scale meets all of the requirements specified in this paragraph (b)(2) and appendix A to this part.

(B) The scale inspector must provide the original inspection report to the vessel owner and a copy to NMFS.

(C) The vessel owner must either:

(1) Maintain a copy of the report on board when use of the scale is required and make the report available to the observer, NMFS personnel, or an authorized officer, upon request, or;

(2) Display a valid NMFS-sticker on each approved scale.

(D) When in use, an approved scale must also meet the requirements described in paragraphs (b)(3) through (b)(6) of this section.

(3) At-sea scale tests.

To verify that the scale meets the MPEs specified in this paragraph (b)(3), the vessel operator must test each scale or scale system used to weigh total catch one time during each 24-hour period when use of the scale is required. The vessel owner must ensure that these tests are performed in an accurate and timely manner.

(i) Belt scales and automatic hopper scales.

(A) The MPE in the daily at-sea scale tests is plus or minus 3 percent of the known weight of the test material.

(B) Test procedure. A material test must be conducted by weighing at least 400 kg of fish or an alternative material supplied by the scale manufacturer on the scale under test. The known weight of the test material must be determined by weighing it on a platform scale approved for use under paragraph (b)(7) of this section.

(ii) Platform and hanging scales.

(A) Maximum Permissible Error. The MPE for platform and hanging scales is plus or minus 0.5 percent of the known weight of the test material.

(B) Test weights. Each test weight must have its weight stamped on or otherwise permanently affixed to it. The weight of each test weight must be annually certified by a National Institute of Standards and Technology approved metrology laboratory or approved for continued use by the NMFS authorized inspector at the time of the annual scale inspection. The amount of test weights that must be provided by the vessel owner is specified in paragraphs (b)(3)(ii)(B)(1) and (b)(3)(ii)(B)(2) of this section.

(1) Platform scales used as observer sampling scales or to determine the known weight of test materials. Any combination of test weights that will allow the scale to be tested at 10 kg, 25 kg, and 50 kg.

(2) Scales used to weigh total catch. Test weights equal to the largest amount of fish that will be weighed on the scale in one weighment.

(iii) Requirements for all scale tests.

(A) Notify the observer at least 15 minutes before the time that the test will be conducted, and conduct the test while the observer is present.

(B) Conduct the scale test by placing the test material or test weights on or across the scale and recording the following information on the at-sea scale test report form:

(1) Vessel name;

(2) Month, day, and year of test;

(3) Time test started to the nearest minute;

(4) Known weight of test material or test weights;

(5) Weight of test material or test weights recorded by scale;

(6) Percent error as determined by subtracting the known weight of the test material or test weights from the weight recorded on the scale, dividing that amount by the known weight of the test material or test weights, and multiplying by 100; and

(7) Sea conditions at the time of the scale test.

(C) Maintain the test report form on board the vessel until the end of the fishing year during which the tests were conducted, and make the report forms available to observers, NMFS personnel, or an authorized officer. In addition, the scale test report forms must be retained by the vessel owner for 3 years after the end of the fishing year during which the tests were performed. All scale test report forms must be signed by the vessel operator.

(4) Scale maintenance.

The vessel owner must ensure that the vessel operator maintains the scale in proper operating condition throughout its use; that adjustments made to the scale are made so as to bring the performance errors as close as practicable to a zero value; and that no adjustment is made that will cause the scale to weigh fish inaccurately.

(5) Printed reports from the scale **(not applicable to observer sampling scales)**.

The vessel owner must ensure that the printed reports are provided as required by this paragraph. Printed reports from the scale must be maintained on board the vessel until the end of the year during which the reports were made and be made available to observers, NMFS personnel, or an authorized officer. In addition, printed reports must be retained by the vessel owner for 3 years after the end of the year during which the printouts were made.

(i) Reports of catch weight and cumulative weight. Reports must be printed at least once every 24 hours when use of the scale is required. Reports must also be printed before any information stored in the scale computer memory is replaced. Scale weights must not be adjusted by the scale operator to account for the perceived weight of water, mud, debris, or other materials. Scale printouts must show:

(A) The vessel name and Federal fisheries or processor permit number.

(B) The haul or set number as recorded in the processor's DCPL (see § 679.5);

(C) The total weight of the haul or set;

(D) The total cumulative weight of all fish or other material weighed on the scale.

(ii) Printed report from the audit trail. The printed report must include the information specified in sections 2.3.1.8, 3.3.1.7, and 4.3.1.8 of appendix A to this part. The printed report must be provided to the authorized scale inspector at each scale inspection and must also be printed at any time upon request of the observer, the scale inspector, NMFS staff, or an authorized officer.

(6) Scale installation requirements.

The scale display must be readable from where the observer collects unsorted catch.

(7) Platform scales used as observer sampling scales or to determine the known weight of test materials.

Platform scales used only as observer sampling scales or to determine the known weight of fish for a material test of another scale are required to meet all of the requirements of paragraph (b) of this section and appendix A to this part except sections 4.3.1 and 4.3.1.5 of appendix A to this part (printer) or section 4.3.1.8 (audit trail) of appendix A to this part.

(c) Scales approved by the State of Alaska. **(effective through 12/31/07)**

Scale requirements in this paragraph are in addition to those requirements set forth by the State of Alaska, and nothing in this paragraph may be construed to reduce or supersede the authority of the State to regulate, test, or approve scales within the State of Alaska or its territorial sea. Scales used

to weigh groundfish catch that are also required to be approved by the State of Alaska under Alaska Statute 45.75 must meet the following requirements:

(1) Verification of approval.
The scale must display a valid State of Alaska sticker indicating that the scale was inspected and approved within the previous 12 months.

(2) Visibility.
The owner and manager of the processor must ensure that the scale and scale display are visible simultaneously to the observer. Observers, NMFS personnel, or an authorized officer must be allowed to observe the weighing of fish on the scale and be allowed to read the scale display at all times.

(3) Printed scale weights **(NOTE: This paragraph (c)(3) is effective upon receipt of Paperwork Reduction Act approval from the Office of Management and Budget and upon publication of a *Federal Register* document to make them effective.)**

(i) The owner and manager of the processor must ensure that printouts of the scale weight of each haul, set, or delivery are made available to observers, NMFS personnel, or an authorized officer at the time printouts are generated and thereafter upon request for the duration of the fishing year. **The owner and manager must retain scale printouts as records** as specified in § 679.5(a)(13).

(ii) A scale identified in a CMCP (see paragraph (g) of this section) must produce a printed record for each delivery, or portion of a delivery, weighed on that scale. If approved by NMFS as part of the CMCP, scales not designed for automatic bulk weighing may be exempted from part or all of the printed record requirements. The printed record must include:

(A) The processor name;

(B) The weight of each load in the weighing cycle;

(C) The total weight of fish in each delivery, or portion of the delivery that was weighed on that scale;

(D) The total cumulative weight of all fish or other material weighed on the scale since the last annual inspection;

(E) The date and time the information is printed;

(F) The name and ADF&G number of the vessel making the delivery. This information may be written on the scale printout in pen by the scale operator at the time of delivery.

(4) Inseason scale testing.
Scales identified in an approved CMCP (see paragraph (g) of this section) must be tested by plant personnel in accordance with the CMCP when testing is requested by NMFS-staff or NMFS-authorized personnel. Plant personnel must be given no less than 20 minutes notice that a scale is to be tested and no testing may be requested if a scale test has been requested and the scale has been found to be accurate within the last 24 hours.

(i) How does a scale pass an inseason test?
To pass an inseason test, NMFS staff or NMFS-authorized personnel will verify that the scale display and printed information are clear and easily read under all conditions of normal operation, weight values are visible on the display until the value is printed, and the scale does not exceed the maximum permissible errors specified below:

Test Load in Scale Divisions	Maximum Error In Scale Divisions
(A) 0-500	1
(B) 501-2,000	2
(C) 2,001-4,000	3
(D) >4,000	5

(ii) How much weight is required to do an inseason scale test? Scales must be tested with the amount and type of weight specified for each scale type in the following tables:

(A) Automatic hopper 0 to 150 kg (0 to 300 lb) capacity.

Certified Test Weights	Other test material
(1) Minimum weighment or 10 kg (20 lb), whichever is greater	Minimum
(2) Maximum	Maximum

(B) Automatic hopper > 150 kg (300 lb) capacity.

Certified Test Weights	Other test material
(1) Minimum weighment or 10 kg (20 lb), whichever is greater	Minimum
(2) 25 percent of maximum or 150 kg (300 lb), whichever is greater	Maximum

(C) Platform or flatbed 0 to 150 kg (0 to 300 lb) capacity.

Certified Test Weights	Other test material
(1) 10 kg (20 lb)	Not Acceptable
(2) Midpoint	Not Acceptable
(3) Maximum	Not Acceptable

(D) Platform or flatbed > 150 kg (300 lb) capacity.

Certified Test Weights	Other test material
(1) 10 kg (20 lb)	Not Acceptable
(2) 12.5 percent of maximum or 75 kg (150 lb), whichever is greater	50 percent of maximum or 75 kg (150 lb), whichever is greater
(3) 25 percent of maximum or 150 kg (300 lb), whichever is greater	75 percent of maximum or 150 kg (300 lb), whichever is greater

(E) Observer sampling scale > 50 kg capacity.

Certified Test Weights	Other test material
(1) 10 kg	Not Acceptable
(2) 25 kg	Not Acceptable
(3) 50 kg	Not Acceptable

(iii) Certified test weights (NOTE: This paragraph (c)(4)(iii) is effective upon receipt of Paperwork Reduction Act approval from the Office of Management and Budget and upon publication of a *Federal Register* document to make them effective.)

Each test weight used for inseason scale testing must have its weight stamped on or otherwise permanently affixed to it. The weight of each test weight must be certified by a National Institute of Standards and Technology approved metrology laboratory every 2 years. An observer platform scale must be provided with sufficient test weights to test the scale at 10 kg, 25 kg, and 50 kg. All other scales identified in an approved CMCP must be provided with sufficient test weights to test the scale as described in this paragraph (c)(4) of this section. Test weights for observer platform scales must be denominated in kilograms. Test weights for other scales may be denominated in pounds.

(iv) Other test material. When permitted in paragraph (c)(4)(ii) of this section, a scale may be tested with test material other than certified test weights. This material must be weighed on an accurate observer platform scale at the time of each use.

(v) Observer sampling scales. Platform scales used as observer sampling scales must:

(A) Have a capacity of no less than 50 kg;

(B) Have a division size of no less than 5 g;

(C) Indicate weight in kilograms and decimal subdivisions; and

(D) Be accurate within plus or minus 0.5 percent when tested at 10 kg, 25 kg, and 50 kg by NMFS staff or a NMFS-certified observer.

(d) Observer sampling station

(1) Accessibility.

All of the equipment required for an observer sampling station must be available to the observer at all times while a sampling station is required and the observer is aboard the vessel, except that the observer sampling scale may be used by vessel personnel to conduct material tests of the scale used to weigh total catch under paragraph (b)(3) of this section, as long as the use of the observer's sampling scale by others does not interfere with the observer's sampling duties.

(2) Location.

(i) Motherships and catcher/processors or catcher vessels using trawl gear. The observer sampling station must be located within 4 m of the location from which the observer collects unsorted catch. Clear, unobstructed passage must be provided between the observer sampling station and the location where the observer collects unsorted catch. When standing where unsorted catch is sampled, the observer must be able to see that no fish have been removed between the bin and the scale used to weigh total catch.

(ii) Vessels using nontrawl gear. The observer sampling station must be located within 5 m of the collection area, described at § 679.28(d)(7)(ii)(B), unless any location within this distance is unsafe for the observer. Clear, unobstructed passage must be provided between the observer sampling station and the collection area. Access must be provided to the tally station, described at § 679.28(d)(7)(ii)(A). NMFS may approve an alternative location if the vessel owner submits a written proposal describing the alternative location and the reasons why a location within 5 m of where fish are brought on board the vessel is unsafe, and the proposed observer sampling station meets all other applicable requirements of this section.

(iii) What is clear, unobstructed passage?

Where clear and unobstructed passage is required, passageways must be at least 65 cm wide at their narrowest point, be free of tripping hazards, and be at least 1.8 m high. Doorways or companionways must be free of obstacles.

(3) Minimum work space.

The observer must have a working area for sampling of at least 4.5 square meters. This working area includes the observer's sampling table. The observer must be able to stand upright and have a work area at least 0.9 m deep in the area in front of the table and scale.

(4) Table.

The observer sampling station must include a table at least 0.6 m deep, 1.2 m wide and 0.9 m high and no more than 1.1 m high. The entire surface area of the table must be available for use by the observer. Any area used for the observer sampling scale is in addition to the minimum space requirements for the table. The observer's sampling table must be secured to the floor or wall.

(5) Observer sampling scale.

The observer sampling station must include a NMFS -approved platform scale with a capacity of at least 50 kg located within 1 m of the observer's sampling table. The scale must be mounted so that the weighing surface is no more than 0.7 m above the floor. The scale must be approved by NMFS under paragraph (b) of this section and must meet the maximum permissible error requirement specified in paragraph (b)(3)(ii)(A) of this section when tested by the observer.

(6) Other requirements.

The sampling station must include flooring that prevents slipping and drains well (grating or other

material where appropriate), adequate lighting, and a hose that supplies fresh or sea water to the observer.

(7) Requirements for sampling catch.

(i) Motherships and catcher/processors using trawl gear. The conveyor belt conveying unsorted catch must have a removable board to allow fish to be diverted from the belt directly into the observer's sampling baskets. The diverter board must be located downstream of the scale used to weigh total catch so that the observer can use this scale to weigh large samples. At least 1 m of accessible belt space, located downstream of the scale used to weigh total catch, must be available for the observer's use when sampling a haul.

(ii) Catcher/processors using non-trawl gear. In addition to the sampling station, vessels using non-trawl gear must provide:

(A) Tally station. A place where the observer can see the gear as it leaves the water and can count and identify fish. It must be within 5 m of where fish are brought aboard the vessel and in a location where the observer is not in danger of falling overboard or being injured during gear retrieval. Where exposed to wind or seas, it must be equipped with a railing at least 1.0 m high, grating or other non-slip material, and adequate lighting.

(B) Collection area. A collection area is a place where the observer, or vessel crew under the observer's guidance, collects fish as they come off the line or are removed from pots. It must be located where the observer can see the gear when it leaves the water. Where exposed to wind or seas, it must be equipped with a railing at least 1.0 m high and grating or other non-slip material.

(8) Inspection of the observer sampling station.

Each observer sampling station must be inspected and approved by NMFS prior to its use for the first time and then one time each year within 12 months of the date of the most recent inspection with the following exceptions: If the observer sampling station is moved or if the space or equipment available to the observer is reduced or removed when use of the observer sampling station is required, the observer sampling station inspection report issued under this section is no longer valid, and the observer sampling station must be reinspected and approved by NMFS. Inspection of the observer sampling station is in addition to inspection of the at-sea scales by an authorized scale inspector required at paragraph (b)(2) of this section.

(i) How does a vessel owner arrange for an observer sampling station inspection? The time and place of the inspection may be arranged by submitting to NMFS a written request for an inspection. Inspections will be scheduled no later than 10 working days after NMFS receives a complete application for an inspection, including the following information:

(A) Name and signature of the person submitting the application, and the date of the application.

(B) Street address, business address, telephone number, and fax number of the person submitting the application.

(C) Whether the vessel or processor has received an observer sampling scale inspection before and, if so, the date of the most recent inspection report.

(D) Vessel name.

(E) Federal fishery permit number.

(F) Location of vessel where sampling station inspection is requested to occur, including street address and city.

(G) For catcher/processors using trawl gear and motherships, a diagram drawn to scale showing the location(s) where all catch will be weighed, the location where observers will sample unsorted catch, and the location of the observer sampling station as described at paragraph (d) of this section.

(H) For all other vessels, a diagram drawn to scale showing the location(s) where catch comes on board the vessel, the location where observers will sample unsorted catch, the location of the observer sampling station, including the observer sampling scale, and the name of the manufacturer and model of the observer sampling scale.

(I) For all vessels, a copy of the most recent scale inspection report issued under paragraph (b)(2) of this section.

(ii) Where will observer sampling station inspections be conducted? Inspections will be conducted on vessels tied up at docks in Dutch Harbor, Alaska, and in the Puget Sound area of Washington State.

(iii) Observer sampling station inspection report. An observer sampling station inspection report, valid for 12 months from the date it is signed by NMFS, will be issued to the vessel owner if the observer sampling station meets the requirements in this paragraph (d). The vessel owner must maintain a current observer sampling station inspection report on board the vessel at all times when the vessel is required to provide an observer sampling station approved for use under this paragraph (d). The observer sampling station inspection report must be made available to the observer, NMFS personnel, or to an authorized officer upon request.

(e) Certified bins for volumetric estimates of catch weight

(1) Certification.

The information required in this paragraph (e) must be prepared, dated, and signed by a licensed engineer with no financial interest in fishing, fish processing, or fish tendering vessels. Complete bin certification documents must be submitted to the Regional Administrator prior to harvesting or receiving groundfish from a fishery in which certified bins are required and must be on board the vessel and available to the observer at all times.

(2) Specifications.

(i) Measurement and marking. The volume of each bin must be determined by accurate measurement of the internal dimensions of the bin. The internal walls of the bin must be permanently marked and numbered in 10-cm increments indicating the level of fish in the bin in cm. All marked increments and numerals must be readable from the outside of the bin through a viewing port or hatch at all times. Marked increments are not required on the wall in which the viewing port is located, unless such increments are necessary to determine the level of fish in the bin from another viewing port. Bins must be lighted in a manner that allows marked increments to be read from the outside of the bin by an observer or authorized officer. For bin certification documents dated after July 6, 1998, the numerals at the 10-cm increment marks must be at least 4 cm high.

(ii) Viewing ports. Each bin must have a viewing port or ports from which the internal bin markings and numerals on all walls of the bin can be seen from the outside of the bin, except that bin markings and numerals are not required on the wall in which the viewing port is placed, if that wall cannot be seen from any other viewing port in the bin.

(3) Information required.

For bin certification documents submitted after July 6, 1998, the person certifying the bins must provide:

(i) The vessel name;

(ii) The date the engineer measured the bins and witnessed the location of the marked increments and numerals;

(iii) A diagram, to scale, of each bin showing the location of the marked increments on each internal wall of the bin, the location, and dimensions of each viewing port or hatch, and any additional information needed to estimate the volume of fish in the bin;

(iv) Tables indicating the volume of each certified bin in cubic meters for each 10-cm increment marked on the sides of the bins;

(v) Instructions for determining the volume of fish in each bin from the marked increments and table; and

(vi) The person's name and signature and the date on which the completed bin certification documents were signed.

(4) Recertification.

The bin's volume and the marked and numbered increments must be recertified if the bin is modified in a way that changes its size or shape or if marking strips or marked increments are moved or added.

(5) Operational requirements.

(i) Placement of catch in certified bins. All catch must be placed in a bin certified under this paragraph (e) to estimate total catch weight prior to sorting. Refrigerated seawater tanks may be used for volumetric estimates only if the tanks comply with all

other requirements of this paragraph (e). No adjustments of volume will be made for the presence of water in the bin or tank.

(ii) Prior notification. Vessel operators must notify observers prior to any removal of fish from or addition of fish to each bin used for volumetric measurements of catch so that an observer may make bin volume estimates prior to fish being removed from or added to the bin. Once a volumetric estimate has been made, additional fish may not be added to the bin until at least half the original volume has been removed. Fish may not be removed from or added to a bin used for volumetric estimates of catch weight until an observer indicates that bin volume estimates have been completed and any samples of catch required by the observer have been taken.

(iii) Fish from separate hauls or deliveries from separate harvesting vessels may not be mixed in any bin used for volumetric measurements of catch.

(iv) The bins must not be filled in a manner that obstructs the viewing ports or prevents the observer from seeing the level of fish throughout the bin.

(f) Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Requirements

(1) What is a VMS?

A VMS consists of a NMFS-approved VMS transmitter that automatically determines the vessels position and transmits it to a NMFS-approved communications service provider. The communications service provider receives the transmission and relays it to NMFS.

(2) How are VMS transmitters and communications service providers approved by NMFS?

(i) NMFS publishes type approval specifications for VMS components in the ***Federal Register***.

(ii) Transmitter manufacturers or communication service providers may submit products or services to NMFS for evaluation based on the published specifications.

(iii) NMFS will publish a list of NMFS-approved transmitters and communication service providers in the ***Federal Register***. As necessary, NMFS will publish amendments to the list of approved components in the ***Federal Register***.

(3) What are the vessel owner's responsibilities?

If you are a vessel owner that must participate in a VMS, you or your crew must:

(i) Obtain a NMFS-approved VMS transmitter and have it installed onboard your vessel in accordance with the instructions provided by NMFS. You may get a copy of the VMS installation and operation instructions from the Regional Administrator upon request.

(ii) Activate the VMS transmitter and receive confirmation from NMFS that the VMS transmissions are being received before engaging in operations when a VMS is required.

(iii) Continue the VMS transmissions until no longer engaged in operations requiring VMS.

(iv) Stop fishing immediately if informed by NMFS staff or an authorized officer that NMFS is not receiving position reports from the VMS transmitter.

(v) Make the VMS transmitter available for inspection by NMFS personnel, observers or an authorized officer.

(vi) Ensure that the VMS transmitter is not tampered with, disabled, destroyed or operated improperly.

(vii) Pay all charges levied by the communication service provider.

(4) What must the vessel owner do before activating a VMS transmitter for the first time?

If you are a vessel owner who must use a VMS and you are activating a VMS transmitter for the first time, you must:

(i) Contact the NMFS Enforcement Division by FAX at 907-586-7703 and provide: the VMS transmitter ID, the vessel name, the Federal Fisheries Permit number, and approximately when and where the vessel will begin fishing.

(ii) Call NMFS enforcement at 907-586-7225, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 0800 hours, A.l.t., and 1630 hours, A.l.t., at least 72 hours before leaving port and receive confirmation that the transmissions are being received.

(5) What must the vessel owner do when the vessel replaces a VMS transmitter?

If you are a vessel owner who must use a VMS and you wish to replace a transmitter, you must either:

(i) Have followed the reporting and confirmation procedure for the replacement transmitter, as described above in paragraph (f)(4) of this section, or

(ii) Contact the NMFS Enforcement Division by phone or FAX and provide: the replacement VMS transmitter ID, the vessel name and the vessel's Federal Fisheries Permit Number and receive confirmation that the transmissions are being received before beginning operations.

(6) When must the VMS transmitter be transmitting?

Your vessel's transmitter must be transmitting if the vessel is operating in any reporting area (see definitions at § 679.2) off Alaska while any fishery requiring VMS, for which the vessel has a species and gear endorsement on its Federal Fisheries Permit under § 679.4(b)(5)(vi), is open.

(g) Catch monitoring and control plan requirements (CMCP)

(effective June 1, 2003 or upon receipt of Paperwork Reduction Act approval from the Office of Management and Budget and upon publication of a *Federal Register* document to make them effective.))

(1) What is a CMCP?

A CMCP is a plan submitted by the owner and manager of a processing plant, and approved by NMFS, detailing how the processing plant will meet the catch monitoring and control standards detailed in paragraph (g)(6) of this section.

(2) Who is required to prepare and submit a CMCP for approval?

The owner and manager of an AFA inshore processor is required to prepare and submit a CMCP which must be approved by NMFS prior to the receipt of pollock harvested in the BSAI directed pollock fishery.

(3) How is a CMCP approved by NMFS?

NMFS will approve a CMCP if it meets all the performance standards specified in paragraph (g)(6) of this section. The processor must be inspected by NMFS prior to approval of the CMCP to ensure that the processor conforms to the elements addressed in the CMCP. NMFS will complete its review of the CMCP within 14 working days of receiving a complete CMCP and conducting a CMCP inspection. If NMFS disapproves a CMCP, the plant owner or manager may resubmit a revised CMCP or file an administrative appeal as set forth under the administrative appeals procedures described at § 679.43.

(4) How is a CMCP inspection arranged?

The time and place of a CMCP inspection may be arranged by submitting a written request for an inspection to NMFS, Alaska Region. NMFS will schedule an inspection within 10 working days after NMFS receives a complete application for an inspection. The inspection request must include:

(i) Name and signature of the person submitting the application and the date of the application;

(ii) Address, telephone number, fax number, and email address (if available) of the person submitting the application;

(iii) A proposed CMCP detailing how the processor will meet each of the performance standards in paragraph (g)(6) of this section.

(5) For how long is a CMCP approved?

NMFS will approve a CMCP for 1 year if it meets the performance standards specified in paragraph (e)(2) of this section. An owner or manager must notify NMFS in writing if changes are made in plant operations or layout that do not conform to the CMCP.

(6) How do I make changes to my CMCP?

An owner and manager may change an approved CMCP by submitting a CMCP addendum to NMFS. NMFS will approve the modified CMCP

if it continues to meet the performance standards specified in paragraph (e)(2) of this section. Depending on the nature and magnitude of the change requested, NMFS may require a CMCP inspection as described in paragraph (g)(3) of this section. A CMCP addendum must contain:

(i) Name and signature of the person submitting the addendum;

(ii) Address, telephone number, fax number and email address (if available) of the person submitting the addendum;

(iii) A complete description of the proposed CMCP change.

(7) Catch monitoring and control standards

(i) Catch sorting and weighing requirements. All groundfish delivered to the plant must be sorted and weighed by species. The CMCP must detail the amount and location of space for sorting catch, the number of staff assigned to catch sorting and the maximum rate that catch will flow through the sorting area.

(ii) Scales used for weighing groundfish. The CMCP must identify by serial number each scale used to weigh groundfish and describe the rational for its use.

(iii) Scale testing procedures. Scales identified in the CMCP must be accurate within the limits specified in paragraph (c)(4)(i) of this section. For each scale identified in the CMCP a testing plan must be developed that:

(A) Describes the procedure the plant will use to test the scale;

(B) Lists the test weights and equipment required to test the scale;

(C) Lists where the test weights and equipment will be stored; and

(D) Lists the plant personnel responsible for conducting the scale testing.

(iv) Printed record. The owner and manager must ensure that the scale produces a complete and accurate printed record of the weight of each species in a delivery. All of the groundfish in a delivery must be weighed on a scale capable of producing a complete printed record as described in paragraph (c)(3) of this section. However, NMFS may exempt scales not designed for automatic bulk weighing from some or all of the printed record requirements if the CMCP identifies any scale that cannot produce a complete printed record, states how the processor will use the scale, and states how the plant intends to produce a complete record of the total weight of each delivery.

(v) Delivery point. Each CMCP must identify a single delivery point. The delivery point is the first location where fish removed from a delivering catcher vessel can be sorted or diverted to more than one location. If the catch is pumped from the hold of a catcher vessel or a codend, the delivery point normally will be the location where the pump first discharges the catch. If catch is removed from a vessel by brailing, the delivery point normally will be the bin or belt where the brailer discharges the catch.

(vi) Observation area. Each CMCP must designate an observation area. The observation area is a location designated on the CMCP where an individual may monitor the flow of fish during a delivery. The owner and manager must ensure that the observation area meets the following standards:

(A) Access to the observation area. The observation area must be freely accessible to NMFS staff or NMFS-authorized personnel at any time a valid CMCP is required.

(B) Monitoring the flow of fish. From the observation area, an individual must have an unobstructed view or otherwise be able to monitor the entire flow of fish between the delivery point and a location where all sorting has taken place and each species has been weighed.

(vii) Observer work station. Each CMCP must identify and include an observer work station for the exclusive use of NMFS-certified observers.

Unless otherwise approved by NMFS, the work station must meet the following criteria:

(A) Location of observer work station. The observer work station must be located in an area protected from the weather where the observer has access to unsorted catch.

(B) Platform scale. The observer work station must include a platform scale as described in paragraph (c)(4) of this section;

(C) Proximity to observer work station. The observer area must be located near the observer work station. The plant liaison must be able to walk between the work station and the observation area in less than 20 seconds without encountering safety hazards.

(D) Workspace. The observer work station must include: A working area of at least 4.5 square meters, a table as specified in paragraph (d)(4) of this section, and meet the other requirements as specified in paragraph (d)(6) of this section.

(E) Lockable cabinet. The observer work station must include a secure and lockable cabinet or locker of at least 0.5 cubic meters.

(viii) Communication with observer. The CMCP must describe what communication equipment such as radios, pagers or cellular phones, is used to facilitate communications within the plant. The plant owner must ensure that the plant manager provides the NMFS-certified observer with the same communications equipment used by plant staff.

(ix) Plant liaison. The CMCP must designate a plant liaison. The plant liaison is responsible for:

(A) Orienting new observers to the plant;

(B) Assisting in the resolution of observer concerns; and

(C) Informing NMFS if changes must be made to the CMCP.

(x) Scale drawing of plant. The CMCP must be accompanied by a scale drawing of the plant showing:

(A) The delivery point;

(B) The observation area;

(C) The observer work station;

(D) The location of each scale used to weigh catch; and

(E) Each location where catch is sorted.

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

Public Law 94-265

As amended through October 11, 1996

SEC. 303. CONTENTS OF FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS 16 U.S.C. 1853

95-354, 99-659, 101-627, 104-297

(a) REQUIRED PROVISIONS.--Any fishery management plan which is prepared by any Council, or by the Secretary, with respect to any fishery, shall--

(1) contain the conservation and management measures, applicable to foreign fishing and fishing by vessels of the United States, which are--

(A) necessary and appropriate for the conservation and management of the fishery to prevent overfishing and rebuild overfished stocks, and to protect, restore, and promote the long-term health and stability of the fishery;

(B) described in this subsection or subsection (b), or both; and

(C) consistent with the national standards, the other provisions of this Act, regulations implementing recommendations by international organizations in which the United States participates (including but not limited to closed areas, quotas, and size limits), and any other applicable law;

(2) contain a description of the fishery, including, but not limited to, the number of vessels involved, the type and quantity of fishing gear used, the species of fish involved and their location, the cost likely to be incurred in management, actual and potential revenues from the fishery, any recreational interest in the fishery, and the nature and extent of foreign fishing and Indian treaty fishing rights, if any;

(3) assess and specify the present and probable future condition of, and the maximum sustainable yield and optimum yield from, the fishery, and include a summary of the information utilized in making such specification;

(4) assess and specify--

(A) the capacity and the extent to which fishing vessels of the United States, on an annual basis, will harvest the optimum yield specified under paragraph (3),

(B) the portion of such optimum yield which, on an annual basis, will not be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States and can be made available for foreign fishing, and

(C) the capacity and extent to which United States fish processors, on an annual basis, will process that portion of such optimum yield that will be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States;

(5) specify the pertinent data which shall be submitted to the Secretary with respect to commercial, recreational, and charter fishing in the fishery, including, but not limited to, information regarding the type and quantity of fishing gear used, catch by species in numbers of fish or weight thereof, areas in which fishing was engaged in, time of fishing, number of hauls, and the estimated processing capacity of, and the actual processing capacity utilized by, United States fish processors;

(6) consider and provide for temporary adjustments, after consultation with the Coast Guard and persons utilizing the fishery, regarding access to the fishery for vessels otherwise prevented from harvesting because of weather or other ocean conditions affecting the safe conduct of the fishery; except that the adjustment shall not adversely affect conservation efforts in other fisheries or discriminate among participants in the affected fishery;

(7) describe and identify essential fish habitat for the fishery based on the guidelines established by the Secretary under section 305(b)(1)(A), minimize to the extent practicable adverse effects on such habitat caused by fishing, and identify other actions to encourage the conservation and enhancement of such habitat;

(8) in the case of a fishery management plan that, after January 1, 1991, is submitted to the Secretary for review under section 304(a) (including any plan for which an amendment is submitted to the Secretary for such review) or is prepared by the Secretary, assess and specify the nature and extent of scientific data which is needed for effective implementation of the plan;

(9) include a fishery impact statement for the plan or amendment (in the case of a plan or amendment thereto submitted to or prepared by the Secretary after October 1, 1990) which shall assess, specify, and describe the likely effects, if any, of the conservation and management measures on--

(A) participants in the fisheries and fishing communities affected by the plan or amendment; and

(B) participants in the fisheries conducted in adjacent areas under the authority of another Council, after consultation with such Council and representatives of those participants;

(10) specify objective and measurable criteria for identifying when the fishery to which the plan applies is overfished (with an analysis of how the criteria were determined and the relationship of the criteria to the reproductive potential of stocks of fish in that fishery) and, in the case of a fishery which the Council or the Secretary has determined is approaching an overfished condition or is overfished, contain conservation and management measures to prevent overfishing or end overfishing and rebuild the fishery;

(11) establish a standardized reporting methodology to assess the amount and type of bycatch occurring in the fishery, and include conservation and management measures that, to the extent practicable and in the following priority--

(A) minimize bycatch; and

(B) minimize the mortality of bycatch which cannot be avoided;

(12) assess the type and amount of fish caught and released alive during recreational fishing under catch and release fishery management programs and the mortality of such fish, and include conservation and management measures that, to the extent practicable, minimize mortality and ensure the extended survival of such fish;

(13) include a description of the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors which participate in the fishery and, to the extent practicable, quantify trends in landings of the managed fishery resource by the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors; and

(14) to the extent that rebuilding plans or other conservation and management measures which reduce the overall harvest in a fishery are necessary, allocate any harvest restrictions or recovery benefits fairly and equitably among the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors in the fishery.

97-453, 99-659, 101-627, 102-251, 104-297

(b) DISCRETIONARY PROVISIONS.--Any fishery management plan which is prepared by any Council, or by the Secretary, with respect to any fishery, may--

(1) require a permit to be obtained from, and fees to be paid to, the Secretary, with respect to--

(A) any fishing vessel of the United States fishing, or wishing to fish, in the exclusive economic zone [or special areas,]* or for anadromous species or Continental Shelf fishery resources beyond such zone [or areas]*;

(B) the operator of any such vessel; or

(C) any United States fish processor who first receives fish that are subject to the plan;

(2) designate zones where, and periods when, fishing shall be limited, or shall not be permitted, or shall be permitted only by specified types of fishing vessels or with specified types and quantities of fishing gear;

(3) establish specified limitations which are necessary and appropriate for the conservation and management of the fishery on the--

(A) catch of fish (based on area, species, size, number, weight, sex, bycatch, total biomass, or other factors);

(B) sale of fish caught during commercial, recreational, or charter fishing, consistent with any applicable Federal and State safety and quality requirements; and

(C) transshipment or transportation of fish or fish products under permits issued pursuant to section 204;

(4) prohibit, limit, condition, or require the use of specified types and quantities of fishing gear, fishing vessels, or equipment for such vessels, including devices which may be required to facilitate enforcement of the provisions of this Act;

(5) incorporate (consistent with the national standards, the other provisions of this Act, and any other applicable law) the relevant fishery conservation and management measures of the coastal States nearest to the fishery;

(6) establish a limited access system for the fishery in order to achieve optimum yield if, in developing such system, the Council and the Secretary take into account--

(A) present participation in the fishery,

(B) historical fishing practices in, and dependence on, the fishery,

(C) the economics of the fishery,

(D) the capability of fishing vessels used in the fishery to engage in other fisheries,

(E) the cultural and social framework relevant to the fishery and any affected fishing communities, and

(F) any other relevant considerations;

(7) require fish processors who first receive fish that are subject to the plan to submit data (other than economic data) which are necessary for the conservation and management of the fishery;

(8) require that one or more observers be carried on board a vessel of the United States engaged in fishing for species that are subject to the plan, for the purpose of collecting data necessary for the conservation and management of the fishery; except that such a vessel shall not be required to carry an observer on board if the facilities of the vessel for the quartering of an observer, or for carrying out observer functions, are so inadequate or unsafe that the health or safety of the observer or the safe operation of the vessel would be jeopardized;

(9) assess and specify the effect which the conservation and management measures of the plan will have on the stocks of naturally spawning anadromous fish in the region;

(10) include, consistent with the other provisions of this Act, conservation and management measures that provide harvest incentives for participants within each gear group to employ fishing practices that result in lower levels of bycatch or in lower levels of the mortality of bycatch;

(11) reserve a portion of the allowable biological catch of the fishery for use in scientific research; and

(12) prescribe such other measures, requirements, or conditions and restrictions as are determined to be necessary and appropriate for the conservation and management of the fishery.

97-453, 104-297

(c) PROPOSED REGULATIONS.--Proposed regulations which the Council deems necessary or appropriate for the purposes of--

(1) implementing a fishery management plan or plan amendment shall be submitted to the Secretary simultaneously with the plan or amendment under section 304; and

(2) making modifications to regulations implementing a fishery management plan or plan amendment may be submitted to the Secretary at any time after the plan or amendment is approved under section 304.

e. Diversity of project activities represented by the proposed awards,

f. Avoidance of redundancy and conflicts with the initiatives of other Federal agencies, and

g. Availability of funds.

C. Announcement of Award Decisions

Award winners will be notified by letter. Once award winners formally accept their awards, the Department will announce the award winners at *http://www.export.gov/mdcp.*

Within ten days of the Department's announcement of the awards, unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing and invited to receive a debriefing from MDCP officials.

VI. Other Requirements and Classification

A. Other Requirements

1. *Pre-Award Notification Requirements:* The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification of Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the **Federal Register** notice of October 1, 2001 (66 FR 49917), as amended by the **Federal Register** notice published on October 30, 2002 (67 FR 66109), is applicable to this solicitation.

2. Pre-Award Activities: There is no obligation on the part of the Department to cover pre-award costs. Except as noted above in *II.C.4. Approved Pre-Award-Period Expenditure,* if applicants incur any costs prior to an award being made, they do so solely at their own risk of not being reimbursed by the government.

3. Intergovernmental Review: Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, ''Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.''

B. Classification

1. Executive Order 12866: This notice has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

2. Paperwork Reduction Act: This notice contains collection of information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. The use of SF–424, SF–424A, SF–LLL, and CD–346 have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under respective OMB Control Numbers 0348–0043, 0348–0044, 0348–0040, 0348–0046, and 0605–0001. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Dated: March 14, 2003.

Robert W. Pearson,

Director, Office of Planning, Coordination and Management, Trade Development, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

[FR Doc. 03–6589 Filed 3–18–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DR–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 031403A]

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Alaska Region Scale and Catch Weighing Requirements

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before May 19, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at *dHynek@doc.gov*).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Patsy A. Bearden at 907–586–7228, or at *patsy.bearden@noaa.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The procedures in question are designed for Western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) catcher/processors and American Fisheries Act (AFA) catcher/processors and AFA motherships and involve catch weighing, observer sampling stations, and observer coverage requirements. This existing information collection would be revised to incorporate catch-weighing requirements for AFA inshore processors (shoreside processors and stationary floating processors).

NMFS must be able to ensure that the total weight, species composition, and catch location for each delivery are reported accurately. This is accomplished through a catch-monitoring system that: allows for independent verification of catch weight, species composition and haul location data; ensures that all catch is weighed accurately; and provides a record of the weight of each delivery that may be audited by NMFS. Requirements include approval of scale types for use, inspection requests, scale tests, an inshore processor catch monitoring and control plan, and printed output from scales.

II. Method of Collection

Forms or may be e-mailed, FAXed or submitted in paper form. The daily scale test forms and scale printed output are paper forms that are not submitted to NMFS.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648–0330.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations, individuals or households, and not-for-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 37.

Estimated Time Per Response: 20–190 hours for a scale type evaluation; 6 minutes for at-sea scale inspection request; 6 minutes for scale approval report/sticker; 2 minutes for application to inspect scales on behalf of NMFS; 6 minutes for records of daily at-sea or shoreside scale tests; 45 minutes for printed at-sea or shoreside scale output; 2 hours for request for observer station inspection; 5 minutes for inshore Catch Monitoring and Control Plan (CMCP) inspection request; 40 hours for CMCP; and 8 hours for CMCP addendum.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 4,727.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: $6,048.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the

burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 12, 2003

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 03–6590 Filed 3–18–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

[I.D. 031403B]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Title: Vessel Monitoring System for Atlantic Highly Migratory Species.

Form Number(s): None.

OMB Approval Number: 0648–0372.

Type of Request: Regular submission.

Burden Hours: 2,181.

Number of Respondents: 320.

Average Hours Per Response: 4 hours for installation of equipment; 2 hours for annual maintenance of the equipment (beginning in the second year); 0.3 seconds per automated position report from the automated equipment; and 5 minutes to complete and return a one-time installation checklist.

Needs and Uses: Vessels fishing for Atlantic tuna and swordfish that use pelagic longline gear are required to install and operate vessel monitoring systems. Automatic position reports are submitted on an hourly basis whenever the vessel is at sea. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to revise the current requirements to add an installation checklist that vessel operators would follow and then submit to NMFS. The checklist provides information on the hardware and communications service selected by each vessel. NMFS will use the returned checklists to ensure that position reports are received and to aid NMFS in troubleshooting problems.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Frequency: One-time, on occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

OMB Desk Officer: David Rostker, (202) 395–3897.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482–0266, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at *dHynek@doc.gov*).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to David Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: March 12, 2003.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 03–6591 Filed 3–18–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 031403C]

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Tortugas Access Permits.

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before May 19, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at *dHynek@doc.gov*).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to John Armor at 301–713–3125, ext. 117, or at *John.Armor@noaa.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

In order to gain access to the Tortugas ecological reserve, persons must obtain a permit. The permit holders must notify NOAA by radio no less than 30 minutes and no more than 6 hours before entering the reserve, and when leaving it. Permit actions may be appealed.

The purposes of the access permit and notifications are to (1) protect this unique deepwater coral reef and (2) facilitate the enforcement of the no-take regulations in this remote area. The overall intended effect of this collection is to protect the deepwater coral reef community in this area from being degraded by human activities.

II. Method of Collection

Applications and notifications are made by phone. Appeals must be in writing.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648–0418.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations; individuals or households; not-for-profit institutions; State, Local, or Tribal Government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 101.

Estimated Time Per Response: 10 minutes for a application; 2 minutes for a radio call; and 90 minutes for an appeal.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 24.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: $28.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection;